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Major takes to the hills

By RONALD FAUX

WITH Maastricht in doubt, the ink still wet on the £7.5 billion cheque to support sterling, Yugoslavia in turmoil and the Opposition spoiling for an early recall of Parliament, John Major repaired for the Welsh countryside yesterday to learn about suckler cows and the plight of the hill farmer.

Political and economic troubles may have been gathering like the dark clouds which threatened to drench the hills of Chwyd, but the prime minister donned a pair of green wellies and strolled contentedly around John Wilyman's 630-acre upland farm near Llangernyw. But there was to be no escape. So much was happening in the wider world that Mr Major was pursued by reporters and television cameras.

He paused beside a rose bed outside Mr Wilyman's farmhouse to say what he thought about the Mitterrand debate. He had not seen it. "Interesting and intriguing," he said. "We all believe it (the Maastricht treaty) has defects, but it was reached after tough negotiations. Everyone believed it was the right way forward for Europe but not everyone liked every single point. That is why I decided not to go ahead with the social chapter and other countries had their own reservations."

A reporter who suggested that the £7.5 billion loan to support sterling was a repeat of Dennis Healey's appeal to the IMF in 1976 was firmly put down. "There is no comparison," Mr Major declared.

A question about the Welsh language saved him from further explanation, then he was on to the government's refusal to recall Parliament. Mr Major coolly dismissed Labour's demand. It was a slightly opportunistic and ritual cry that popped up every two or three years, he said.

All of which was of little immediate concern to Mr Wilyman and his hill farm, which he had impressed on the prime minister over a cup of coffee, was efficient, well run, yet barely scratched profit. Was the government to blame? Mr Wilyman preferred not to criticise his recent guest.

Mr Major is expected to hold talks next week on the future constitution of Scotland, when he makes his second visit there since the general election.

It is believed the prime minister wants to hold meetings with various groups, as part of his promise to and sound out public opinion on the way the country should be governed.

US rate cut, page 1
Leading article, page 13



Hill country life: Mr Major shares a moment with farmer's sons James and Daniel Wilyman, and their cousin Richard, left

Examiners say GCSE results do not point to falling standards

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

EXAMINING groups yesterday rejected claims by Her Majesty's Inspectorate that GCSE standards may be falling.

The boards held their fire until the publication of the inspectors' report that prompted John Patten, the education secretary, to demand an investigation. Some are reserving judgment until they have discussed the findings formally. John Edmundson, the secretary of the Joint Council on the GCSE, however, said that the examples cited in the report did not warrant the conclusion that standards had dropped. "To have made such sweeping comments, HMI must possess more substantial evidence than there is in the report."

Mr Edmundson said the boards would be demanding a more detailed account of the inspectors' concerns. "There are certain issues raised that have to be considered seriously by the examining groups, but I think it is only right that the groups should see the depth and extent of evidence on which some of the generalisations are based."

Ministers consider the

inspectors' findings sufficient to raise the possibility of a single examining body, or even a return to a qualification more like O level. The School Examinations and Assessment Council, which has still to compile its report on this year's GCSE, has been asked for proposals to tighten procedures.

The implications of the debate continue to concern parents and pupils. George Turnbull, of the Southern Examining Group, said: "We have had a number of calls from people worried about grades, or the effect on future examinations. I spoke to the mother of one of next year's candidates, who was most concerned that her son might be prevented from taking the subjects he would need for a career in engineering because she thought the exams would be made more difficult."

David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "The analysis seems to lack a certain amount of academic rigour, as well as being confusing in its verdict on this year's examinations." However, Sir Rhodes

Boyson, a former Conservative education minister, said that the report pointed to a need to reform the GCSE. He said: "I always opposed the single examination for all abilities. I am not suggesting that we go back to O levels and CSE, but there will have to be different papers for the more academic pupils. At the moment, it reflects a watered-down grammar school curriculum which is useless for both ends of the spectrum."

Lecturers in the new universities are to be bailed out by the breakdown of pay talks yesterday. Industrial action would begin with a refusal to take part in new appraisal schemes.

Employers in the former polytechnics and colleges of higher education offered a rise of 3.9 per cent, with a further 0.75 per cent in performance-related pay. The unions are claiming 12.5 per cent and demanding an independent public enquiry into lecturers' pay.

Meanwhile lecturers in the traditional universities are considering action over the government's veto of a 7 per cent pay deal.

Cost of salaries for NHS managers up tenfold in 4 years

By ALISON ROBERTS

EXPENDITURE on health service managers' pay increased tenfold between 1987 and 1991 while spending on the pay of nurses and midwives went up by 60 per cent, according to health department figures issued yesterday.

The managers' increase, from £25 million in 1987 to £251 million in 1991, was criticised by Opposition politicians and health workers' bodies who accused the government of creating a new bureaucratic layer at the expense of basic pay for health workers.

The health department said that the number of NHS senior and general managers rose from 700 in 1987 to 13,200 in 1991, but most of these were as a result of internal transfers and promotions.

Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, said the increased numbers had been necessary to improve efficiency within the service. For every pound of health service money spent on managers, £43 was spent on health professionals. Compared with other organisations, that proportion was "still relatively light", she said.

Labour's health spokesman, David Blunkett, said the statistics were an "absolute disgrace". He said: "Public money which should be going

into health prevention and the care of patients is instead going into increased salaries for a new layer of administrators mainly created because of the government's NHS reforms."

The concept of management within the NHS is relatively new. The Griffiths Report introduced the idea in 1984 and hospitals and health authorities recruited managers in the run up to the implementation of the 1991 reforms. More staff are now needed to negotiate contracts and handle bills.

Pamela Charlwood, director of the Institute of Health Service Managers, said managers had an increasingly responsible and insecure job that deserved a high wage. "It is right that they should be held to account for their practice and whether the level of care is right," she said.

The British Medical Association acknowledged the need for more managers, but attacked reforms which had created the shortfall. The reforms had produced a new bureaucracy which took money away from other parts of the service, a spokesman said. "If you have one pool of money and you take out a larger sum for management there is a smaller amount for patient care."

Father wins battle to keep son from sect

A father who was excluded from the strict Christian sect the Exclusive Brethren has won a legal battle for the right to take his nine-year-old son with him into the world outside its rigid moral doctrine.

The Court of Appeal yesterday rejected an attempt by two members of the sect, a married couple regarded by the boy as his grandparents, to overturn an Ipswich County Court judge's order that he should live with his father. Lord Justice Purchas, sitting with Lord Justice Balcombe, said that compassion was excluded by the disciplines and tenets of the sect and the impact of such doctrines on a child's future welfare had to be taken into account.

The boy, referred to as "D", has lived most of his life with the sect, which regards non-members as impure and bans all social contact with them. It forbids children to watch television or to listen to records or the radio. The father was ostracised because he was considered to have behaved badly following the death of his wife, but had taken his son to live in Sussex where they had developed a good relationship. The court was told that sect members had followed them there.

House prices down

House prices fell by 0.7 per cent in August, following a 0.4 per cent fall in July, according to the Halifax, the country's largest building society. Prices are 5.4 per cent lower than they were a year ago and the society predicted no upturn in the market this year "unless the economy generally starts to show signs of recovery, or interest rates fall significantly". Any recovery during 1993 would be muted, it said. The average price of a house is £64,600. Prices of new houses fell sharply in August, by 1.1 per cent, more than the price of all houses. This followed rises of 0.8 per cent in July and 1.1 per cent in June. The prices of new houses are 3.5 per cent lower than they were a year ago.

Asian suicide fears

The suicide rate among young Asian women in Britain is nearly three times higher than the average, reflecting intense social pressures on them, doctors say. They believe that marital and family conflicts, caused by the traditional requirement for Asian women to be submissive and deferential to men and older family members, may be the cause of much unrecognised suffering. Figures published in the *British Journal of Psychiatry* shows that women of Indian origin are nine times more likely to commit suicide by burning than other women. Most of the suicides are in women under 35. By contrast, older Asians of both sexes have a lower suicide rate than the average.

Regimental change

One of the most controversial regimental mergers under the government's *Options for Change* defence programme takes place next week, when The Queen's and The Royal Hampshire amalgamate to become The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshire). The new regiment's cap badge is pictured on the right.

The merger, which will take place officially next Wednesday, has been brought forward by six months. The Princess of Wales, who was colonel-in-chief to the Royal Hampshire, will retain the title for the new 2,500-strong regiment. Queen Margrethe of Denmark will be allied colonel-in-chief, continuing a link with the royal Danish family established over 300 years ago. The soldiers of the new regiment will be reformed into two regular battalions, two Territorial Army battalions and a TA company of the London Regiment.

Fake GP's sex assaults

A convicted rapist who set up a practice as a manipulator of bad backs and sexually assaulted women patients was jailed yesterday for two years. Brent Grant, 63, who had a surgery in Basingstoke, Hampshire, was found guilty at Winchester Crown Court last month of five indecent assaults. The jury was told that he gripped his women patients' breasts as he treated them for back pain. He claimed that he had trained as a GP and that there would always be a nurse present during treatment, but he was not medically trained and the practice nurse was his wife, Catherine. In 1981 Grant, then called Edward Collins, was convicted of rape by York Crown Court and jailed for five years.

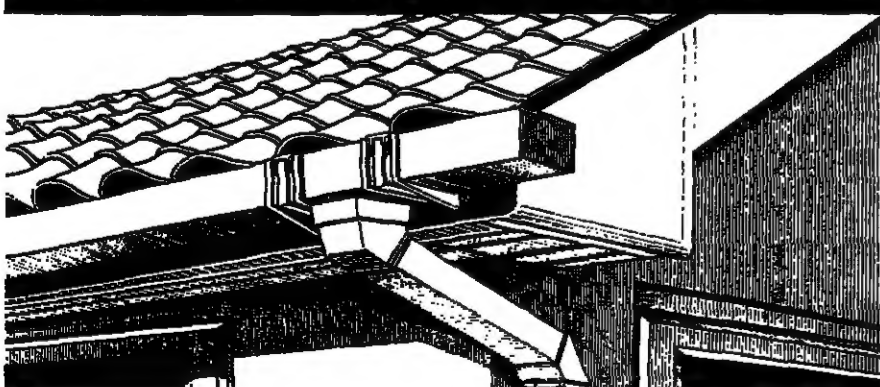
Dairy controls urged

Government plans to end the Milk Marketing Board's monopoly could lead to higher prices for milk, butter and cheese, according to the Dairy Trade Federation, which represents creameries and dairies. It said that the board's proposals would lead to the replacement of one monopoly with another. The government is expected to publish a bill this autumn to end the board's 59-year-old monopoly. New arrangements, due to start in 1994, will allow farmers to sell milk to anyone they choose. The federation fears that the majority will form a co-operative and control most of the milk. It has asked the government to create regulatory controls over prices, supply and contract terms.

Poison ship leaves

The container ship which arrived at Felixstowe, Suffolk, yesterday, carrying 18 tonnes of chemical waste left the port yesterday afternoon to continue its voyage to Cape Town and Australia. Protesters from Greenpeace had tried to stop the Panama-registered *Maria Laura* docking with its cargo of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), claiming that the shipment was illegal because the Australian government had failed to provide the required 60 days notice. The crew unloaded non-toxic waste.

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Moore gives evidence from beyond grave

By KATE ALDERSON AND SIMON TAIT

HENRY Moore's own words, in a transcript of a taped conversation with his daughter, have been submitted as the latest evidence from objectors to the Henry Moore Foundation's plans for the sculptor's home.

Public planning enquiries are not known for their moments of drama, but the hearing at Much Hadham village hall is being played out to full theatrical effect. The sculptor's words, following the surprise submission of the Tate Gallery's objection to part of the proposal to create visitor and study centres at the Moore home, Hoglands, at Perry Green, come six years after his death.

Counsel for Moore's daughter, Mary Moore, has insisted throughout that the sculptor wanted the house and gar-

dens to remain as he left them. In a conversation recorded in 1975, Moore said: "If Hoglands began to be used or looked anything like the sculpture parks, I'd wipe it off tomorrow."

The enquiry is expected to be adjourned on Wednesday with Ms Moore giving her evidence on September 22.

CORRECTION
 The Constable painting *Hanham Bridge Looking towards Salisbury Cathedral* was consigned to Sotheby's for sale by the executors of the late Nicholas Phillips, and not, as reported yesterday, by the Luton Hood trustees.

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Baseball bat killer is given a life sentence

By PETER VICTOR



Lavender: walking home when Paul attacked him

A MAN who clubbed an MA student so hard with a baseball bat that his skull was shattered wept yesterday as he was sentenced to life in prison. Mary Lavender, 69, the victim's widowed mother, said after the verdict: "I hope he cries for the rest of his life."

Mark Paul, 20, was sobbing as he led to the cells after sentencing. Mr Justice Hobhouse, at the Old Bailey, central London, told him: "This was an appalling and unprovoked attack on an innocent man. I appreciate the remorse you feel and the fact that you are as horrified as the rest of us by what you have done."

During the trial, Paul told the jury that he and his friend Andrew Christie, 21, decided to go out "looking for trouble" after drinking six pints of lager each and smoking three joints of cannabis. They planned to smash parked cars with the baseball bat.

Paul told the jury: "I was high. I was excited. I was in high spirits." Christie had already put the bat through a car windscreen when they came across John Lavender, 28, who was walking home

in Battersea, south London, just after midnight on September 4 last year after a night out with a woman friend.

Paul decided that, for a thrill, he would hit someone with the 3ft long bat. He snatched the weapon from Christie and delivered a two-handed running blow to the back of Mr Lavender's head, splitting his skull into four pieces.

The two left Mr Lavender suffering from convulsions, shaking and mumbling incoherently on his hands and knees. He crawled into a doorway, where he was found later by three youths.

An ambulance was called but his injuries were so severe that brain surgeons at the Atkinson Morley hospital, which specialises in neurological problems, were unable to save him. He died about 12 hours after the blow was delivered.

Neither Paul nor Christie bothered to call an ambulance. "They left him to die in the street like a dog," a police officer said afterwards.

Martin Heslop, for the prosecution, said that Paul

was so unconcerned about what he had done that he played baseball with the bat five days later in Battersea Park.

Mr Heslop said that Mr Lavender had just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. "There was no motive for the attack. They had never set eyes on each other before. It was a vicious unprovoked attack."

Paul, a jewellery salesman, denied murder, but admitted manslaughter. He claimed that he did not intend to injure Mr Lavender seriously and that he had intended only to give him "a headache".

Christie, a camera salesman, who lived with Paul in Battersea, admitted affray. Mr Justice Hobhouse ruled after legal argument that Christie had no case to answer as far as a murder charge was concerned.

Mr Lavender, who was brought up in Birmingham, was living in Battersea while working as an insurance agent and studying for an MA in business administration at London University. He left school with 4 A levels and attended Jesus College, Ox-

ford, where he took a history degree.

He was a keen supporter of Aston Villa football club. The club held a minute's silence for him at Villa Park last October before their match with Wimbledon.

The London section of the supporter's club dedicated its December newsletter to his memory. "As a football supporter, he set an example to follow," it said. "He lost his life suddenly and senselessly. He had a gentle sense of humour and will be missed by all. Those of us who knew him will never forget him."

His mother said: "My son was a lovable bear of a guy. Everyone loved him. He was just under 6ft tall and very bright."

Of Paul, she said: "A double life sentence would not be justice to me. I despise him. He is a very low human being. He doesn't deserve his freedom."

"I would like to have ten minutes with that young man so he would know exactly what he has done. I want him to know he has my son's blood on his hands. I hope it haunts him for the rest of his days."



Paul: committed unprovoked assault "for a thrill"

Baby given cut-down adult liver

By ALISON ROBERTS

THE smallest liver transplant patient in Europe was recovering in a Leeds hospital yesterday after receiving an adult donor's organ cut down to a fifteenth of its original size.

Liam Harner, eight months, who now weighs 9lbs, was born two months prematurely and contracted a disease which caused liver failure. Surgeons at St James's University Hospital in Leeds waited three months for a suitable donor, but Liam became so ill that an adult organ had to be used. Doctors believe it is the first time such a large liver has been used to replace the organ of a small child.

The hospital said the 12-hour operation had been a success and Liam, who has spent his life in hospital, was doing well. He may be allowed home next month. His mother, Zoe Redman, 17, is spending all her time at the hospital.

Peter Lodge, consultant transplant surgeon, said: "Normally there is an eight out of ten chance of a child coming out of such an operation and surviving five years. Those who get to five years tend to do well for the rest of their lives."

Palace rejects tabloid tales of princess's secret meetings

By ALAN HAMILTON

SCOTLAND Yard yesterday took the rare step of issuing an unequivocal denial of newspaper reports that the Princess of Wales had on six recent occasions dismissed her personal police officer to keep a series of secret appointments.

Commander Bob Marsh, acting head of the royal and diplomatic protection department which provides the royal family's bodyguards, delivered a comprehensive denial of a report in yesterday's *Daily Mail* which suggested that the princess had several times gone alone to meet her friend James Gilbey; that royal police officers had been summoned to Buckingham Palace to report on the princess's movements; and that the intelligence services had been monitoring her movements.

The statement was apparently issued with the approval of both the palace and Sir Peter Imbert, the Metropolitan Police commissioner. Royal protection officers are anxious to quash any suspicion that they may have tipped off newspapers about the princess's private life, which has come under intense scrutiny since Andrew Morton's biography came out.

Commander Marsh said that while it was not normal

policy to discuss royal security, it was felt necessary on this occasion to address allegations which impugned the integrity of royal protection officers.

In a statement he said: "The allegation that on six occasions the Princess of Wales has taken the extremely unusual step of dispensing with her personal protection officer and gone alone to appointments is completely untrue. Senior royal protection officers from New Scotland Yard have not been summoned to Buckingham Palace to be questioned about the movements of the Princess of Wales. Protection officers have not been asked to provide details of whom she met, where and when. Also, protection officers have not received information from the intelligence services on these matters. Protection officers have never been asked to spy on their principals, and would quite rightly refuse to do so."

Meanwhile Major James Hewitt, another friend of the princess, has begun libel proceedings against *The Sun* after it suggested a close relationship between him and the princess. The action raises the theoretical but unlikely possibility of the princess being called to the witness box.

Even Buckingham Palace, normally silent or at best defensive on questions of private lives, has made two uncharacteristically firm denials of rumours surrounding the princess. Earlier this week the palace dismissed as a fake a letter supposedly written by a senior palace official accusing the princess of relishing her

role as a martyr. Two days later a report that the princess had visited Mr Gilbey at a remote Norfolk farmhouse was described as pure fiction.

The speculation has continued with a report earlier this week in the *Daily Express* that the Prince and Princess of Wales would definitely part in the autumn, countered by a report in yesterday's *Daily Mirror* that they definitely would not.

John Whitehouse, a spokesman for Quadrant Video Systems, of Birmingham, the company behind the technology

Camera records cashpoint customers

PEOPLE withdrawing money from cash dispensers may soon be recorded on video cameras, in an attempt to reduce fraud and resolve the growing number of disputes over so-called phantom withdrawals — transactions which customers claim they never made.

Some financial institutions, including the Derbyshire Building Society, have been quietly testing cashpoint cameras and recording technology over the past few months. The camera, which is difficult to detect, films at one frame a minute but speeds up when a customer slots in a card. The idea is that when a transaction is disputed the bank can produce a photograph of the customer with the transaction details.

John Whitehouse, a spokesman for Quadrant Video Systems, of Birmingham, the company behind the technology

Nick Nuttall looks at the latest videos in the high street — and finds they may solve disputes over phantom bank withdrawals

ogy, said he was in discussions with other banks and financial institutions. He said interest in the system was rising because of the new banking codes of practice, which came into effect in March this year for personal customers.

Traditionally, banks and building societies have taken the view that disputed withdrawals were due to customers lying or having given their card and personal identification number to someone else. Under the new codes, the burden of proof has switched to the financial institution.

Currently, around 250 people are planning to challenge what are claimed to be

bogus withdrawals from high street cashpoints. The action is being co-ordinated by Dennis Whalley, a solicitor from St Helens, Merseyside.

The level of claims may rise. Studies by Ross Anderson, a cryptologist at Cambridge University, estimates that about a third of account holders have had some dispute over electronic banking transactions. Errors arise for a variety of reasons: from bugs in computer programmes to the more sophisticated forging of cards, personal identification numbers, and their magnetic strips.

"As bankers become more complacent about their sys-

tems and technical knowledge of them continues to spread, both the incidence of fraud and the likelihood of a really major loss continue to grow," Dr Anderson said.

Financial institutions who have tested the video system believe this growing pressure may make such techniques inevitable.

Already, one of the camera-assisted ATMs has caught two people allegedly trying to illegally withdraw cash. When confronted with a claim by a customer that she had not withdrawn £30, staff at the Derbyshire society produced a photograph of the transaction which showed her two sons at the machine using her card without her knowledge.

A spokeswoman for Barclays Bank, the company which pioneered cashpoints, said yesterday that they had begun evaluating the cameras.

BOSNIA & CROATIA

NOVEMBER 1992 CHILDREN WILL FREEZE TO DEATH

A few short weeks from now freezing fog, sub-zero temperatures and snow will arrive in Bosnia and Croatia. When this happens tens of thousands of refugees, already suffering the effects of war, will be at even greater risk. They will die from exposure or, because the roads are impassable, they will simply starve. As ever it is the children who are most at risk.

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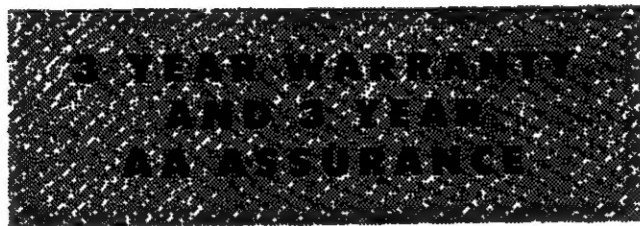


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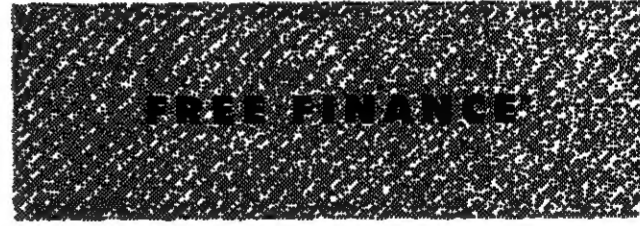
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Last-minute
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August sales

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Last-minute car bargains help lift August sales

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

A ROUND of last-minute price cutting and dealing by car manufacturers and Britain's 12,000 garages managed to push August sales to only a small increase over last year.

The industry hoped for sales of about 400,000, signalling the start of a recovery, but the total was 373,804, an increase of 1.67 per cent over the 367,646 of August last year and not enough to boost the total for the year so far. That is still 2.47 per cent down on last year at 1,175,600.

Over the last few days of August, manufacturers were increasingly worried that they would not match last year's figures. The first of the month brought 175,953 registrations, almost half the total for the entire month in which the new K-registrations were introduced, but sales then settled back to an average of 8,000 a day.

That was not enough to beat

well used. If sales totals start to run short, dealers are often told to register extra demonstration models. In the case of the biggest manufacturers, such as Ford, Vauxhall or Rover, that can lead to the registration of thousands of extra cars that have not yet been sold.

There is also pressure on rental companies to buy huge numbers to ensure the flow of cars. They buy at discounts of up to 40 per cent and sell the cars into the used car market after as little as six weeks.

There was no evidence of such activity on any great scale in August, when private buyers are the main target. But almost every company offered huge incentives to attract customers as well as bombarding them with a record £50 million worth of advertising. The effort worked for Ford, which was market leader with a share of 23.54 per cent, up from 21.79 per cent recorded last year. Vauxhall improved slightly to take a 15.22 per cent share.

The biggest progress was made by the PSA Peugeot-Citroen group of France. Its combined share of the market was a record 13.87 per cent, putting it in front of Rover, which sank back to 11.12 per cent. The success included Citroen achieving a 42 per cent growth to take a 5.09 per cent share of the market.

Rover's Land Rover subsidiary, which had its best month since the company was founded in 1948, increased sales of its four-wheel-drive vehicles in August to 3,907, up 6.1 per cent on last year.

Car makers now turn their attention to the rest of the year, with prospects looking as bleak as at any time during the recession. Sir Hal Miller, chief executive of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said he did not expect an upturn in the market until 1994. "There are plenty of would-be customers around, but there is no confidence to make the financial commitment necessary," he said.



Model line-up: a row of new Rover cars awaiting orders last month. The company's market share sank to 11.12 per cent

Flies come unstuck after scientists devise wax trap

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A CHEMICAL-free fly trap that stops insects from landing on walls and ceilings has been developed by British scientists.

The trap, devised by researchers at Southampton University, uses light to attract insects. Once inside, they become coated in a fine film of electrostatically charged wax particles. The particles stick to the insect's feet, blocking the pads that allow it to attach itself to walls and ceilings.

It slips down a funnel onto a sticky pad, which can be thrown out later. The university has patented the device and is seeking commercial backers.

News of the development came as Winchester City Council, Hampshire, sought the researchers' help after a sharp rise in complaints of house-fly infestations in the Hambledon and Droxford areas. Householders, mostly living near poultry farms,

have reported several hundreds of flies being found in their homes, apparently resistant to insecticides.

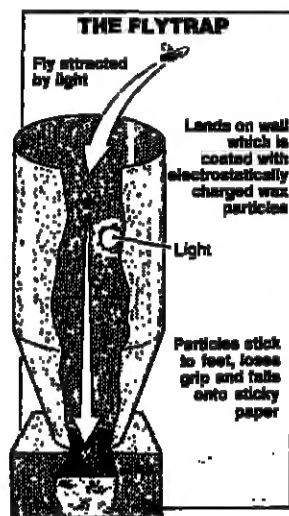
The university's chemical entomology unit, in collaboration with Agrisense-BCS of Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan,

is experimenting with house-fly sex pheromones in an attempt to lure the flies into traps.

The chemical 2-9-tricosene is produced naturally by female house-flies to attract males. Tiny plastic beads of it are being used in poultry houses to attract the flies onto an insecticide. In nearby homes, the results have been encouraging.

Philip Howse, of the chemical entomology unit, said that researchers were studying other means of attracting insects, including one produced by pitcher plants in the tropics.

The recent warm, wet weather, which is responsible for the increase in flies, has also led to a sharp rise in slugs. John Oakley, of the government's agricultural and development advisory agency, said yesterday that a typical square foot of garden now had as many as 30 slugs, ten times more than normal.



Concert awakens neo-Nazi fears

By LOUISE HIDALGO

PLANS by a skinhead rock band believed to have links with German neo-Nazis to hold its first concert in Britain in three years have prompted fears that the resurgence of far-right extremism seen in east Germany may spread to this country.

Peter Hain, Labour MP for Neath and a founder of the Anti-Nazi League, yesterday called the concert by Skrewdriver "another twist in the rather" of the "growing menace of the Nazi far-right". The Board of Deputies of British Jews said the concert was a sign of the "growing confidence of violent far-right elements in Britain, boosted by events in Germany".

Anti-Fascist Action, a campaigning group, has said it will stop the concert, billed as "Rock against Communism". It says the event could attract 2,000 people, including neo-Nazis from abroad.

Last October Skrewdriver was among several European

bands, most with neo-Nazi overtones, due to play at a rock concert in Werben in east Germany on the anniversary of the country's reunification. The concert did not go ahead, but a week of neo-Nazi demonstrations in nearby Cottbus followed. During them a man was stabbed and five British skinheads — all either members or followers of Skrewdriver — were arrested and charged with grievous bodily harm. The five have yet to be tried.

The latest concert has been organised by Blood and Honour, a shadowy publishing-cum-recording company. No venue has been announced. Instead supporters are instructed to gather at Waterloo station, south London, where they will be directed to the concert.

Skrewdriver's last British appearance was at a pub in Gravesend, Kent after Camden council in north London refused a booking.

Child abuse claimed at two homes in Wales

By RAY CLANCY

POLICE are investigating allegations of child abuse in two counties in North Wales, it was confirmed yesterday, and a public enquiry is expected.

Seven people have been charged following investigations in Gwynedd and Clwyd, amid reports that documents were withheld. It is understood that reports have lain in cupboards for several years without being brought to the attention of the police.

A Clwyd county councillor said last night that the police became involved as a result of concerns within the social services department about the former Bryn Eryn children's home where cases of sexual abuse were alleged to have taken place.

Malcolm King, chairman of the social services committee, said: "In July 1991 we handed substantial information to the north Wales police on matters we had ourselves identified as being of concern. We have co-operated to our utmost with the investigation." The police are examining evidence that files and photographs relating to physical abuse have been held in Gwynedd County Council's offices for eight years, and that documents have been withheld relating to an enquiry in Clwyd. The allegations relating to children's homes involve sexual abuse in Clwyd and physical abuse in Gwynedd.

David Owen, chief constable of North Wales, said: "A complex enquiry is being conducted by the North Wales police into allegations of child abuse in Clwyd and Gwynedd. A number of prosecutions are live, and consequently it would be totally improper for us to comment further. However, at the conclusion of proceedings it would be appropriate for a public enquiry to look into the actions of all the parties involved."

Gwynedd County Council said that it had co-operated with the police. "The county council wishes to emphasise that it has not been notified by the police of any complaint about social service department procedures, and is not aware of any statement to that effect issued by the police," a spokesman said.

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Photo by G. Williams/SELECT

Families face heavy losses as critics blame council for building in unsafe area

Mine collapse makes homes unsaleable

Nicholas Watt delves into an unhappy legacy of Cornwall's historic tin mining industry, exacerbated by the drought

FAMILIES have found they cannot sell their homes and insurance companies are threatening to withdraw house policies after the collapse of a derelict mine shaft under a Cornish housing estate.

Six shafts have collapsed in Cornwall this year and experts are blaming the drought. The county has at least 10,000 redundant shafts shored up by timber, which is being weakened by the dryness.

Phil Newall, of the Camborne School of Mines, said: "When the mines ran out, waste was dropped down the shafts and was caught by the first few layers of timber-decking about 50ft down. Most of the shafts then filled up with water."

"But as the water has dropped in the drought the timber has become less stable, which may explain why it has given way, sending the old waste hundreds of feet to the bottom."

He believes that there may also be a simpler explanation. "There has been so much development in Cornwall that when a shaft collapses, you notice. In the old days, when a shaft collapsed in a field, a farmer just quietly covered it over."

The house occupied by the Rowlands family on the Woodland Way estate in Gunnislake, near the Devon border, was declared unsafe after their garden disappeared down a derelict shaft in June. They are now struggling to pay for a new house, while their former neighbours are finding it impossible to sell theirs. Insurance companies have said that the houses may pose a risk which is too high to be covered.

Nikki Rowlands, 26, who has three children, said: "We are losing £8,000 by moving. Our insurance company will give us only the money to cover the value of the house and not

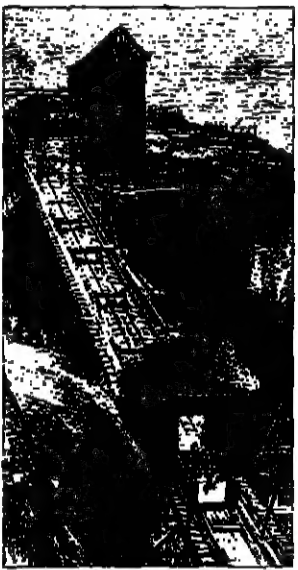
the land. Caradon District Council have offered us £500, but that is not going to get us very far."

Before the estate was built by the council in 1975, St Germans Rural District Council, which covered the Gunnislake area before the reorganisation of local government, carried out extensive surveys on the land. Mrs Rowlands, who bought the house from the original tenants, said: "We had no idea about the surveys. We want to sue the council but we have been told we can't."

Chris and Terry Hobbs, who were due to sell their house on the estate 24 hours after the shaft collapsed in June, have been unable to move after their buyer was put off by the incident.

Mr Hobbs said: "We were going to move into our dream cottage but that has now all fallen through. We have been told by the building society that re-mortgaging our house may be impossible because of insurance problems."

Robert Hicks, the Tory MP



Past industry: Botallack tin mine in Cornwall



Cause and effect: Alan Buckley, mining historian, blames the local council for the collapse which swallowed a garden at Gunnislake, right



for Cornwall South East who has taken up the case of the Woodland Way residents, accuses the council of a hawkish attitude. He said the Rowlands' best hope lies with the government.

"I have been told that the environment department will look sympathetically at an application from the council for a further derelict land grant of about £200,000," he said.

"Some of this could be used to help out the two families whose houses have been condemned. The council are hiding behind the advice of their insurance company. They really must come clean about what happened before the estate was built."

Senior sources in the local community, who want to remain anonymous, say that the Duchy of Cornwall wrote to the then St Germans Council warning them not to build on the site.

One source said: "The letter was not an order but it made it clear that it was better not to build in that area of Gunnislake." A spokeswoman for the Duchy later confirmed that a letter was sent, although she refused to discuss its contents.

Teresa Collings, of Caradon District Council, said: "Before the estate was

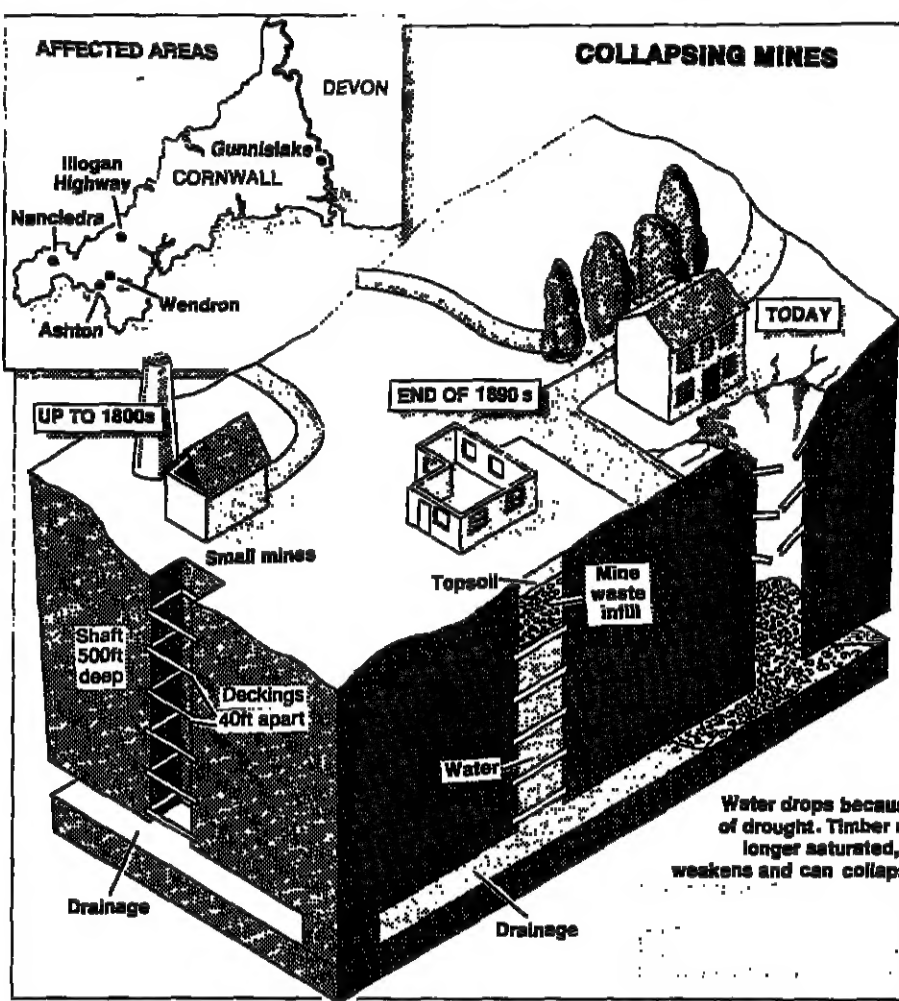
built St Germans Council excavated five trial pits where the houses were to be built. Inspections made sure that all the buildings were put on load-bearing ground.

"As for the letter from the Duchy, we have been advised by our insurance company not to make any comment. Any information we give out has to be approved by them. All our efforts are concentrated now on investigating the area to allay people's fears."

Alan Buckley, a local mining historian, blames the council for the accident at Gunnislake. "They built in the full knowledge that there was an old shaft near by. The mine was capped in 1972 and that was clearly not done properly because they should have filled it right down to the bedrock," he said. Some Cornish councils have been cavalier in the past, he added.

Rod Pierce, of Kerrier District Council, said: "In the 1960s councils built houses without regard to the mines. In the last 15 years the rules have become much stricter."

John Brock, president of the Cornish Mining Development Association, who has worked in the industry since the 1940s, said the name Gunnislake tells all. "The name means a rivulet worked from a mine chasm," he said.



Children die in house fire

Three children died yesterday when fire spread through their council house in Maesgeirchen, Gwynedd. Their mother and one daughter were carried to safety by firemen.

Neighbours tried to break down the door when they heard Janet Saunders, 35, screaming for help but they were beaten back by heat and smoke. Kevin, 5, Richard, 4, and Sarah Jane, 2, were found to be dead on arrival at Gwynedd Hospital.

Mrs Saunders and Kevin's twin sister Karen were being treated in the intensive care unit yesterday.

Raid reward

A £30,000 reward is being offered by Securitor and Gateway in the hunt for a gunman who shot a cleaner and a security guard as he made off with a cash bag from a supermarket in Sudbury, Suffolk. Both victims have undergone surgery for chest injuries.

Writer dead

Richard Burns, an author due to start as head of creative writing at Lancaster University, has been found hanged at his home at Dronfield, near Sheffield. Police said there were no suspicious circumstances.

Cave stick-up

Staff at the Dan yr Ogof caves, near Swansea, hope to glue back into position a 13in stalactite that was stolen and returned through the post.

Taking off

After thieves broke into a hangar at Myerscough airfield, Lancashire, and assembled the parts of a microlight aircraft, one of them flew off in it.

Animal threat

An animal sanctuary in Binfield, Berkshire, whose 1,400 charges include monkeys and pot-bellied pigs, is expected to close after Bracknell Forest councillors approved removal of outbuildings.

Pigeon vote

Councillors in Liverpool will meet next week to decide whether to make feeding pigeons an offence after complaints about nuisance.

Survey questions... Court clerk whims decide legal aid

Fisher's... Spassky force

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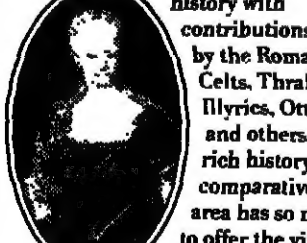


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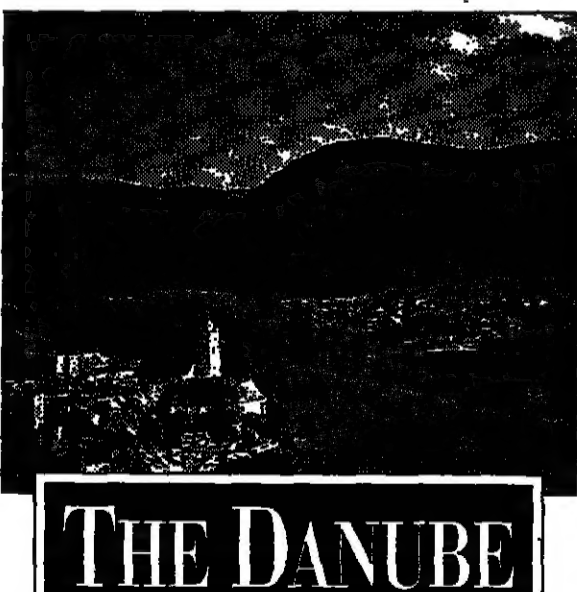
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DAY 3 Christmas day is spent cruising the Danube and enjoying the laze prepared by the ship's chef.

DAY 4 Budapest. Arrive in the morning. Visit the Fine Arts Museum and the Matthias Church for centuries the scene of the coronation of the Kings of Hungary. Drive up Gellert Hill for a magnificent view of Buda and Pest. Opportunity to attend a performance at the Opera House or Ektel Theatre.

DAY 5 Bratislava. Morning on the river arriving at the Slovak capital of Bratislava in the afternoon. Optional excursion to the fortress, set high above the city, the Cathedral and palaces of this ancient and important Danube city. Sail in the evening.

DAY 6 Vienna. Optional excursion to the Schönbrunn Palace - visiting the main points of interest in the city including the Hofburg Palace and St. Stephen's Cathedral. There is also a half day visit to the Schönbrunn Palace - the summer palace and favourite home of Maria Theresia. In the evening there will be a classical music recital, or the chance to visit the Opera or Staatsoper, Moor overnight in Vienna.

DAY 7 Weissenkirchen. Spend the morning cruising past the charming wine growing areas to Weissenkirchen. Disembark after lunch and drive to Vienna Airport (approx 2 hours) for British Airways flight to Heathrow, arriving in the early evening.

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Court clerks' whims decide legal aid

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LEGAL aid for criminal cases in magistrates' courts is granted on the basis of the idiosyncracies and personal views of court clerks rather than the strength of an individual's case, according to research published yesterday.

As a result, there are widespread inconsistencies in the rate that courts grant criminal legal aid across England and Wales, ranging from 35 per cent of applications to 100 per cent, the study found. The research, commissioned by the Legal Aid Board, questions the justice of the system of granting criminal legal aid, which it says operates more as a rule of thumb than any "great delicacy of approach".

Whether an applicant receives legal aid can depend as much upon the personal views and idiosyncracies of court clerks as it can upon the strength and nature of the defence or mitigation to be put forward at court, the research report says.

Searching questions needed to be asked about the justice of the present system. "It cannot be right that virtually identical applications can be determined in such radically different ways by courts and area committees."

The report goes on to ask if "such an open-ended and opaque" decision-making process as that operated by magistrates' courts was in the best interests of justice.

Alison Macnair, of the Legal Aid Head Office, said: "The disparities must mean

that some courts are being too generous and others not being generous enough. But it is not even a question of local court policy; it is the view of the person handling that particular application on questions such as the likelihood of loss of liberty."

The main finding of the research, conducted at six courts and three legal aid areas by the Institute of Judicial Administration at Birmingham University, was that court clerks take little account of the statutory criteria on granting legal aid, the "interests of justice" test. This is partly because they often discount solicitors' claims on matters such as risk of custody.

A second reason is the poor quality of claim forms for legal aid, often filled in by junior staff in solicitors' offices. The study found that only a minority of applications were filled in properly. Sometimes the reasons for claiming legal aid were nonsensical and more often they were vague, absent or irrelevant, it says.

Instead of applying the statutory criteria, clerks tend to look at the gravity of the offence. For certain offences legal aid is almost automatically granted and for others it is almost automatically refused, with many others in a grey area.

The findings, which have gone to the Lord Chancellor, will be used to help devise guidelines for granting legal aid and compiling claim forms.



Clean sweep: a workman buffs up the giant canopy of glass above the Channel tunnel terminal at Waterloo station for the first time. The £120 million London terminal is due to open in May next year and officials want to find out the quickest way of cleaning the 1,500 panes

Weekend sailors lose fees case

By CRAIG SETON

BRITISH Waterways has won a test case that gives it the right to charge a fee for boats moored to private land on the canals network.

The victory follows a long dispute culminating in a county court action against three people who refused to pay mooring fees for their boats, which they kept tethered to private land adjoining the Lancaster canal. They claimed that as they already paid British Waterways for a pleasure boat licence and paid a mooring fee to the landowner, they should not be charged again.

Judge Perrett, QC, who heard the action at Birmingham county court, has found in favour of British Waterways in a reserved judgment. The decision is likely to have implications for hundreds of other boat owners.

British Waterways said yesterday that it welcomed confirmation of its right to charge for mooring on its waterspace. Its opponent, the Association of Private Moorers, which represents more than a hundred boat owners, is considering an appeal.

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Fischer's error lets Spassky force draw

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

THE second game in the chess match between Boris Spassky and Bobby Fischer in Sveti Stefan, Montenegro, ended on Thursday night in a draw after 59 moves. For much of the game it had appeared that Fischer was going to win again, but accurate defence saved Spassky.

The game, with Spassky playing white, opened with a King's Indian Defence. Queens were exchanged as early as the seventh move and, on the tenth, Fischer introduced an entirely new concept to chess theory. By move 19, Spassky had built up what appeared to be a commanding initiative.

Fischer emerged from Spassky's onslaught with an extra pawn on the extreme right flank and, by some intricate tactics from moves 36 to 40, gained the further advantage of rook for knight. All the experts, including Gary Kasparov, the world champion, who telephoned from Moscow to discuss the position, had given up Spassky's situation for lost.

On the fiftieth move, Fischer committed a serious error. Instead of capturing a

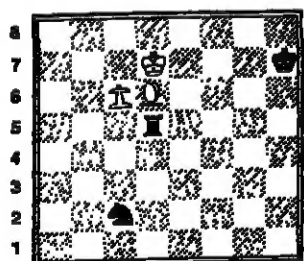


pawn with his knight, which would have led to a certain win, he made a move in the wrong direction, permitting Spassky to wriggle out. By the sacrifice of a bishop on the fifty-eighth move, to advance the passed pawn, Spassky forced the draw.

Fischer had the immense advantage of rook against pawn, but with no way of preventing the queening of White's pawn without sacrificing his own rook.

The moves were as follows:

White	Black	White	Black
1 d4	Nf6	31 Re7	Ba5
2 c4	Nc6	32 B3	h4
3 Nc3	Bg7	33 Kf3	Rg8
4 e4	d5	34 Bg4	h3
5 f3	e5	35 Rb7	h2
6 dxc5	exf3	36 Bf4	Rf8
7 Qxd8+ Kxd8		37 Bxe5+ Kxe5	
8 Bc3	Nd7	38 Ke4	Kd7
9 Ng5	h6	39 Bxd7	Rd8+
10 0-0-0	Na6	40 Kf5	Ne6
11 G3	Nc7	41 Kf6	Nd4
12 B4	B5	42 Bb8	Ra4
13 Bb3	Ka7	43 Bc7	Ra2
14 Rxf1	h5	44 e4	Rb2
15 e5	Bd7	45 Bb6	g5
16 g4	Ra8	46 Bc7	Ra2
17 Ng3	h4	47 Ke5	Nb3+
18 Nc4	Na5	48 Kd6	Nd2
19 B5	Ba4	49 Bb5	Rb4
20 Nc4	g4	50 Kc5	Nb3
21 g5	Nf6	51 Bc5	Ra4
22 Rg1	Bd6	52 Bb6	Ra1
23 Re1+	g3	53 Bc5	a4
24 Kd1	Bf6	54 Bb4	a3
25 Nd6	Kc6	55 e5	Nd4+
26 Rf1	g2	56 Kd7	Ra1
27 Bc5+	Kc7	57 Bc3	Ne2+
28 Rb5	Bd6	58 e6	
29 Re4	Bd2	59 Bb5	Rc5+
30 Ka2	h5	60 Bb6	
31 Re7+	Kf6		Draw agreed



The final position



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Amnesty accused of favouring ANC in reports on violence

AMNESTY International and two other human rights organisations have been accused by the South African Institute of Race Relations of producing reports on violence in the country that are "at best... are one-sided and simplistic, at worst amount to disinformation — deliberate attempts to mislead".

The institute accuses Amnesty, the International Commission of Jurists, and the South Africa-based Human Rights Commission of "effectively convicting one side on the basis of hearsay elevated to fact while exonerating the other".

Anthea Jeffery, the author of the report, is a former law lecturer. She says that the reports from the three organisations all accuse the Inkatha Freedom Party of being the main perpetrator of political violence. They accuse the security forces of colluding with Inkatha in attacking the African National Congress and its allies. All charge the government with ultimate responsibility for the rising number of dead and injured.

A South African institute says rights groups are showing bias, writes Michael Hamlyn

She also says that all three organisations' reports ignore the ANC strategy of fostering ungovernability through mass action, and the intimidation and coercion that the ANC itself acknowledges commonly accompanies mass action. They do not mention the ANC's refusal to disband its armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation) or to surrender its secret arms caches, or its refusal to desist from setting up township defence units, contrary to the provisions of last September's national peace accord.

They neglect the frequent attacks on policemen that have resulted in the deaths of more than 120 in the first seven months of 1992 and which, she says, stems from the

former "people's war" strategy of the ANC, and the high number of Inkatha officials and members, now over 1,000, who have been killed.

The report, *Spotlight on disinformation about violence in South Africa*, takes reports published this year by the three bodies and sets them against findings by the commission of enquiry into violence under Judge Richard Goldstone, and against the institute's own research.

Dr Jeffery considers the Bruntville killing of 19 people in December last year, which was examined by the Goldstone commission, Amnesty and the jurists. Both the latter reports ignore key findings by the commission exonerating the police from collusion in the violence, she says.

"They further distort the commission's findings in relation to dangerous weapons by emphasising only its recommendation that spears should not be carried in public while ignoring its further caution that ways must be found of reassuring Inkatha. Freedom Party supporters who feared for their safety because of concealed weapons carried by ANC supporters."

The Human Rights Commission is blamed for its account of two killings in Sebokeng, a township south of Johannesburg. It reported that there was collusion between white men and Inkatha supporters, ignoring the findings of a judicial inquiry by Judge E. Stafford "who was satisfied that the only evidence given to this effect was perjured".

The institute has been accused of being too close to Inkatha. John Kane-Berman, executive director, acknowledges an association with Chief Mangosuthu Buthe, the Inkatha leader. The institute, founded by Cape liberals in 1929 to fight racism, became a research body chronicling oppression.

The Human Rights Commission has been accused of being too close to the ANC, and dominated by radicals who were members of the Congress of Democrats, the name the South African Communist party used to relaunch itself after its banning.



Joyful habit: a party of Burmese Buddhist nuns sharing a joke after paying a visit to a temple in Pagan during a summer school

Laugh a minute as Chinese junk goes under the hammer

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

LAUGHTER greets the auctioneer's announcement in the tightly packed room. "One Panasonic video player, reserve price of 700 yuan. The only problem is the tapes don't go in." But the bidding soon reaches 830 yuan, about £85, and the hammer falls.

In the days of Maoism, auctions were barred. Competition and inflating prices were ideologically incorrect. Now Peking's first auction house gives a taste of the forbidden fruit and is wildly successful. Auction-going has become one of the latest pastimes, playing on two very Chinese qualities — the entrepreneurial spirit and reluctance to let anything go to the junkyard.

Conservation here does not mean yuppie bottle banks or avoiding aerosols, it simply means waste not, want not. There is always someone to rummage through your rubbish bin: treasure might lurk there. Even fast-food packaging is salvaged and saved for the day when it might become a plant pot or a tea cup.

"I expect he thinks he can repair it," remarks one bidder as he watches another leave

proudly with a broken television set. Another buys six damaged cameras. One woman pays £3 for eight white shirts. "I'm afraid they've been damaged by water, some of them are a little mouldy," says the auctioneer apologetically. "We have links with Christie's and Sotheby's", Feng Jiabo, the deputy general manager, claims grandly, and indeed the auction house does sometimes deal in rather more desirable items than are on offer today. The lots range from a rusty old bicycle to 24 model aeroplanes, and two tailor's models with ragged wings falling from their heads.

Many of the items come from the police, who seized them during raids. Others are soiled goods offloaded by factories. Some are sold by private individuals who have fallen on hard times.

Unlike its Western equivalent, the Peking auction market is noisy and hilarity often breaks out. Many people pay the 25p entrance fee for the entertainment, sitting through four hours of fierce bidding as people yell out their offers, sometimes just 10p more than their rival.

Each item is offered for inspection before the bidding starts. When Mr Feng models a fur coat, walking down the aisle with a swing of the hips, the audience fall off their chairs with laughter. This is much better than anything on Chinese television.

Asked why her husband had just bought eight skirts, one woman answers: "For his own use, of course." Later he bids for 100 sets of women's underwear.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vietnamese try to break blockade

Hong Kong: A stranded flotilla of Vietnamese merchant ships is preparing to sail home in the face of a virtual blockade by Chinese security forces against cargoes to the northern Vietnamese port of Hon Gai (Jonathan Braude writes). To the embarrassment of the colonial government here, 36 Vietnamese freighters are in Hong Kong, while accusations of official piracy and counter-charges of smuggling fly between shippers and the Chinese authorities.

Police aid

Johannesburg: South African police officers have guided the Malawi government in suppressing its opposition forces, according to *The Weekly Mail*, an anti-apartheid newspaper. (AP)

Talks struggle

Jakarta: Members of the Non-Aligned Movement are struggling to agree on what message their tenth summit should reflect, with Iraq and Yugoslavia blocking their progress. (Reuters)

Party forgiven

Manila: The Philippines Congress has legalised the Communist Party after 35 years, at the urging of President Ramos, who is seeking a political settlement to Southeast Asia's last Marxist uprising.

Material girls

Tokyo: The first thing a Japanese woman expects from her partner is that he be well off, rather than good-natured, according to a survey by an underwear company. (Reuters)

Gunmen bargain at border bazaar

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DARRA, PAKISTAN

The main street of Darra is a different kind of shopping centre. Kalashnikovs, handguns and machineguns bang and rattle all day, every day. This is where Kashmir, Punjab and Sind buy the wherewithal for war. It is where the rapacious Pakistani appetite for guns is fed.

Darra is in a tribal area of Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province called the Khyber Agency. Afridi tribesmen have made high-quality guns here for generations without interference from outside. The only law is tribal, imposed and enforced by the elders, and dealing in guns is no more illegal or unusual than dealing in vegetables.

Drugs are a popular sideline. Hashish is sold openly at shops with goatskins hanging outside the door, the traditional symbol of the dope seller. A man called Kachool, a drug dealer, displays slabs of hashish in his shop the size of loaves. He said demand among young Pakistanis was high.

Pakistan's tribal agencies are havens for guns and drugs because they are above everybody's laws. The drug side is booming because the agencies adjoin Afghanistan, the world's biggest opium producer.

The trade is not without farce. Mules laden with guns and drugs cross the mountains while the police look on impotently from the roadside, where their jurisdiction in the tribal territories ends. Middlemen spirit the guns out of the agencies through well-

established smuggling routes to trouble spots in Pakistan and beyond.

Gun-making started nearly two centuries ago. These days, rocket launchers are available on order, with no questions asked. Payment is in cash.

Behind Darra's main street, men and boys labour in small workshops making copies of every famous rifle and handgun. These imitations cost much less, but the craftsmen boast that they are better quality. The first workshop copying the British Lee Enfield, much



admired by the war-like Pathans, started in 1897. There is a brisk trade in secondhand weapons. Many Afghan Mujahideen are selling their captured Russian rifles at give-away prices.

Darra shopkeepers buy them in bulk and resell them for £150 each. That facilitates cut-price terrorism around south Asia. Jamail Din, a gunshop owner, asked if he had any qualms, said: "America makes atom bombs. We make rifles. What is the difference?"

Hurd says Somalia aid was too slow

FROM REUTER IN MOGADISHU

DOUGLAS Hurd, the foreign secretary, said yesterday the world had been too slow in reacting to a famine in Somalia which threatens to kill nearly two million people.

"We were all collectively too slow," Mr Hurd said after leading a European Community delegation on a three-hour tour of the shattered capital. It was the most senior delegation to visit Somalia since the country disintegrated into civil strife 20 months ago when rebels overthrew Mohamed Siad Barre.

"Now at least we have a short but vivid impression," Mr Hurd said after visits to three feeding centres and a hospital where hundreds of fugitives from war and famine are sheltered.

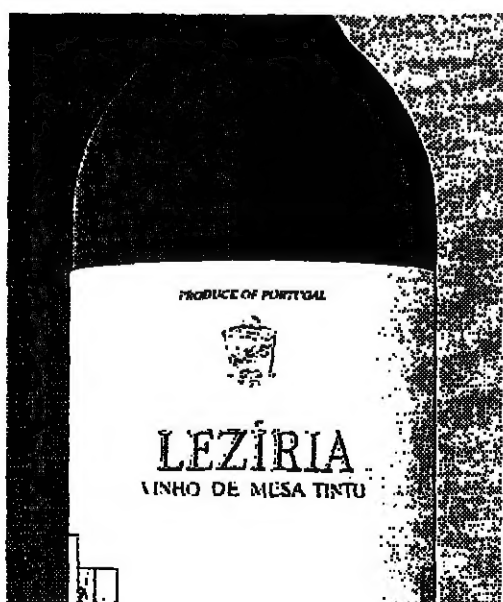
Mr Hurd, Uffe Ellemann-

Jensen, the Danish foreign minister, and José Manuel Dura Barroso, the Portuguese secretary of state for co-operation, visited both sides of the divided capital protected by the gunmen who wrecked it in a battle for control which ended with a shaky ceasefire in March. They were escorted by dozens of gunmen in makeshift armoured cars through southern Mogadishu, loosely controlled by General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, then switched escorts when they crossed into the northern half of the capital, the fiefdom of self-styled President Ali Mahdi Muhammad.

Mr Hurd had to take shelter in a makeshift hut when ten gunshots were fired nearby as he visited a Save the Children Fund centre.

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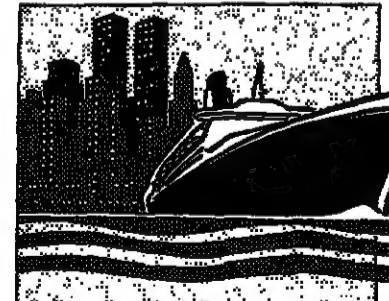
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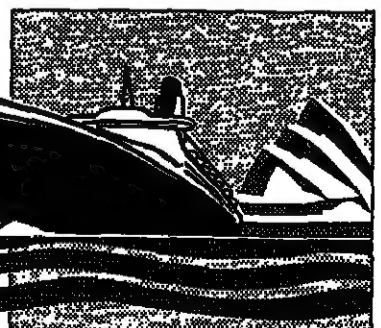
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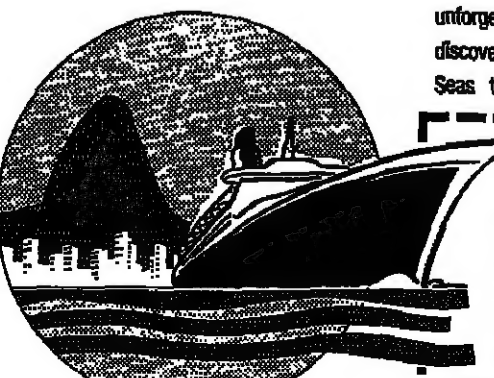
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Clinton rails at economic legacy of the Republicans

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

BILL Clinton has seized on new US poverty statistics to ram home the central message of his presidential campaign, that 12 years of Republican "trickle-down" economics have failed all but the rich and must be changed.

Census Bureau figures showed that the number of Americans living in poverty rose by 2.1 million to 35.7 million (14.2 per cent) in 1991, the highest figure since President Johnson declared war on poverty in 1964. Children accounted for 40.2 per cent of the poor.

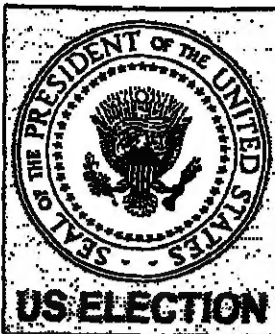
The poverty line income for a family of four is \$13,924 (\$6,900). The purchasing power of the average American household, adjusted for inflation, fell by \$1,077 to \$30,126, the lowest level since 1985.

"Four years ago we were asked to trust Mr Bush when he promised that the next century will be an 'American century'," Mr Clinton said in Washington. "But while the Reagan-Bush-Quayle team have been in charge of America's economic policy, we have gone from first in the world in wages to 13th." More than two-thirds of Americans were "working harder for less money than they were making 10 years ago". Mr Bush had "the worst economic record in 50 years" but was promising "more of the same".

George Stephanopoulos, Mr Clinton's communications director, called the figures "another terrible indication of the devastation of 12 years of Republican rule". James Carville, his chief strategist, contrasted rising poverty with Mr Bush's current "panderama", the wooing of voters with federal largesse.

At last month's Republican convention, Mr Bush promised across-the-board tax cuts if re-elected. Mr Clinton would raise taxes on the rich and increase public spending. A new CNN-USA Today poll, giving Mr Clinton a 15-point lead, showed 55 per cent believed he would handle the economy better, compared with 34 per cent for Mr Bush. The poll also recorded 14 per cent support for Ross Perot who left the race in July — an indication of how little enthusiasm there is for either official candidate. Forty-five per cent said they would never vote for Mr Bush, and 32 per cent would not elect Mr Clinton.

The poverty figures were undoubtedly an embarrassment to the president, and some reports suggested their



US ELECTION

publication had been accelerated to get the bad news out long before election day. Charles Black, Mr Bush's political adviser, called them "disappointing" but insisted America was "moving forward".

The figures also distracted attention from the latest draft-dodging allegations against Mr Clinton. Al Gore, his running mate, threw up a further smokescreen by resurrecting the Iran-Contra scandal. "There were a lot of people running for cover when the arms sales to Iran were revealed. Now it appears George Bush was one of them," he said in Pittsburgh. Recently published notes of George Shultz, secretary of state at the time, have cast doubt on Mr Bush's claim to have been "out of the loop".

Mr Bush continued to receive a hostile press yesterday. The Washington Post accused him of "tossing aside past positions and handing out favours in pursuit of votes like a department store Santa Claus". The New York Times called his economic plan "incoherent" and accused him of being "so eager to smear his opponent as a big taxer that he's willing to trash the truth".

The Bush camp has meanwhile rejected a bipartisan commission's proposals for three presidential debates, each with a single moderator. According to The New York Times, the president's strategists do not want to give Mr Clinton any more of a platform than necessary. They favour only two well-spaced debates, one to make points and the second to rebound from any setbacks, and a panel of questioners who would jump quickly from issue to issue.

On Monday, Labour Day, Mr Bush will appear in Independence, Missouri, the home town of Harry Truman, the Democratic president whose mantle Mr Bush is trying to seize. Mr Bush is spending the three-day weekend campaigning in the key battleground of the industrial Midwest.

New Luddites, page 12

Purple Prince turns to grey

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN NEW YORK

PRINCE, the American rock star who has enjoyed a variety of names in the course of his exotic career, including The Purple One, His Purpleness and The Prince of New York, is now taking on an executive title as a vice-president in America's largest entertainment company.

On Wednesday, the pop singer who is second in eccentricity only to Michael Jackson, signed a \$108-million (£54 million) recording deal with Warner Bros, making him the highest-paid artist in history and launching him into a new career as a business executive for the recording company with an office in Los Angeles.

The diminutive musician, who first made his name performing in a plastic raincoat and usually sings about sex, is expected to cut a rather different figure from his fellow executives. "It signifies his popularity, artistry and appeal," said a company spokesman referring to Prince's new appointment and his "substantial" new contract.

In addition to awarding him a seat in the boardroom, Warner Bros (part of the entertainment giant Time-Warner Inc) is reported to have agreed to pay Prince \$60 million for six albums over the next six years, plus additional "perks" in the form of funding for a number of joint ventures, including a publishing company and two record labels, as well as \$48 million for Prince's existing Paisley Park record label.

While other sectors of the entertainment industry are suffering from the recession, top recording stars continue to command huge sums: in April Madonna, the singer, actress and cultural icon, signed a \$60 million multi-media contract with Time-Warner Inc. Michael Jackson made a brief visit from his own world to sign up a six-album deal also estimated at \$30 million with Sony.

Pop musicians are increasingly setting up their own entertainment companies and labels, effectively becoming one-person industries employing thousands of people. Jackson is now the Jackson Entertainment Complex and Madonna is a company called Maverick.

As a result of his new deal Prince will rule, alone or jointly, over as many as four record labels.



Battling the elements: a woman and her son in Homestead, Florida, struggle to keep dry during persistent thunderstorms as they collect food at a hurricane relief centre. Bill Clinton, the Democratic presidential candidate, touring areas of the state ravaged by Hurricane Andrew, said he was "profoundly moved" by the spirit of the victims of what he said was the worst devastation he had ever seen. Mr Clinton visited Florida City, Richmond Heights and

Homestead with his wife Hillary. He refused to be drawn into an assessment of how well the Bush administration had responded to the disaster, dismissing questions about the political impact of what has been seen as Washington's tardy response. "This is not the time for second-guessing. Now is the time for building," said Mr Clinton. He endorsed Mr Bush's pledge that the federal government would pick up the entire cost of reconstruction. (Reuters)

LITTLE ROCK NOTEBOOK by Martin Fletcher

Young hopefuls fire Democrat command centre

Bedlam reigns within the B ornate Arkansas Gazette building on the corner of Third and Louisiana. Telephones jangle, televisions blast out headlines, copy clatters from wire machines and rushing bodies send papers cascading from a jumble of overflowing desks. A deadline looms — November 3.

This was once a place where news was reported, but last year the venerable Gazette passed away. News is now made here. An army of political junkies has transformed the abandoned building into the high command of Bill Clinton's campaign for the White House.

Three blocks away, the Little Rock visitors' bureau can hardly contain itself. Never in 11 years as Arkansas governor has Mr Clinton performed such a service. His presidential bid has attracted to this small city roughly 350 highly paid consultants and strategists, experts on food allowances, and idealistic young volunteers, not to mention scores of expense-account journalists and thousands of tourists. They spend about £300,000 a day.

But come, back at the Gazette building a veritable theme park waits to be explored, starting with a room off the marbled hallway where a bevy of elderly volunteers are glued to telephones. Patient as Job, they each handle as many as 100 "talker" calls daily from the cranky, opinionated and abusive — all potential voters who cannot be cut off.

Just behind them is "Phone J Frezzy Country" where 16 telephonists channel 6,000 calls a day, a task exceeded only by that of the nearby mailroom, where a 100 FoBs (Friends of Bill) face a daily deluge of 10,000 letters. All "persuadable" correspondents receive personal replies, the rest pro-forma ones. Threatening letters are passed to the Secret Service, the senders tracked whenever Mr Clinton visits their state. The Democrats' triumphant June convention produced such a surge of correspondence that there is a two-week backlog.

Across the hall the fundraising department experienced the same convention surge, raising a record \$10 million in August and enabling their neighbours, accountants, to pay salaries suspended in June for lack of funds. The ground floor's other occupants are the journalists to whose profession the building was once dedicated. They are now confined to a briefing room from which they cannot venture without escorts. Logistics are handled on the second floor. Here scores of ambitious, charged-up twentysomethings work 15-hour days in the Gazette's former newsroom which is now jam-packed with desks, fax machines, copiers and computer screens, clippings and notices stuck to every wall, a single poster: "There's something happenin' here. What it is ain't exactly clear."

A series of hand-made signs on pillars lend order to apparent chaos — "Hillaryland", "Radioland", "Scheduling", "Town", "Planeworld" and "Traveltown". Thirty press officers field calls from the world's reporters. There are desk clusters responsible for everything from minority affairs and satellite hook-ups to videotaping news programmes and organising Al Gore's programme. There is even "Tipperton" which arranges Tipper Gore's campaigning.

The campaign's masterminds reside in the editors' panelled offices on the ramified third floor: the speechwriters, the issues buffs, the presidential debates' preparation team and the campaign highway who devise the battle plans.

And here, finally, is the "War Room", the cramped and bustling nerve centre of the entire campaign where James Carville, the ultimate strategist, holds down and dusk meetings of all top aides to pit their wits against those of their Republican counterparts in distant Washington. "Strategy Central" he has written on a white paper plate above his desk, and on a nearby blackboard the Democrats' three cardinal rules for recapturing the White House: "Change v. More of the Same", "The Economy, Stupid" and "Don't Forget Health Care".

PEOPLE

PLO leader wedded to the cause

Yassir Arafat, speaking about his marriage to Suha Tawil, 28, said that he is more wedded to the Palestinian cause. The Palestinian Liberation Organisation chairman, attending the Non-Aligned Movement summit in Jakarta, told reporters: "Until now no one wanted me, but at last a woman has accepted me." He joked: "Don't forget I am a Muslim, so I can have four wives: three for Palestine and one for myself."

A feminist Tamil poet, Selvanthy, 28, held captive for a year by Sri Lanka's Tamil rebels, has won PEN's international writing award for her efforts to defend freedom of expression. The decision was made six months ago, but PEN was advised by her friends not to name her for fear of what the rebels might do to her. But with no news of her whereabouts for a year, it was time to reveal that she had won the award, Edmund Keeley, PEN president said.

It's been a difficult week for Italy's top beauty pageant. First, Giovanna Fanelli, 27, the woman with Italy's most beautiful legs, turned out to be a man, or at least a former man. She was excluded when officials discovered that she was born Gianni Fanelli. Regulations say contestants must be born female. Then, Sylvie Lumbumba, the first potential black Miss Italy in the 50-year-old pageant, which discovered the likes of Gina Lollobrigida, had to withdraw because she had appeared nude in a magazine.

Laszlo Tokes, 39, the Timisoara priest behind Romania's 1989 revolution, reacted coolly to an offer of dialogue from President Iliescu and continued a hunger strike, which he began on Wednesday. He is demanding the truth about the deaths of more than 1,000 people during the December uprising and subsequent political violence.

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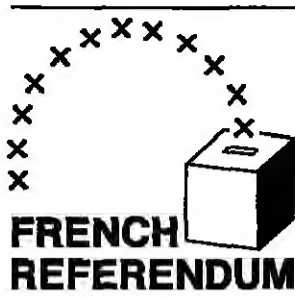
Masterly Mitterrand wins applause for his Maastricht TV show

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN PARIS

A SIGH of relief could be heard from political leaders, stock markets and boardrooms across Europe yesterday after President Mitterrand pulled off his three-hour Maastricht lecture to French voters with an aplomb that won admiration even from critics.

"Call him the Jimmy Connors of politics," said *Le Parisien*, a conservative daily, voicing the widespread view that in his tailor-made television forum from a majestic hall at the Sorbonne, the president had summoned up enough of his old energy and wit to make a good case for the treaty and fend off Philippe Séguin, the Gaullist anti-Maastricht crusader, who debated against him.

M. Séguin was handicapped by his relegation to the closing stages of a broadcast, shaped by the Elysée palace, which veered from TV quiz to talk show, from university lecture to "This Is Your Life", all



FRENCH REFERENDUM

wrapped up in a state ceremony that ended with a patriotic pop song. As masterful as M. Mitterrand was, it was doubtful whether he made many converts. "One could safely bet all rejoined their own camps after switching off the television set," *France-Soir* said.

Straw pollsters from the press found some undecided voters swaying towards a "Yes" after the president's attempts to reassure voters that Maastricht was really just a wise insurance policy against the forces of an untamed open market, a view endorsed in an appearance by "my friend, Helmut", the German chan-

cellor. Both the president and the chancellor worked hard to allay all the apocalyptic talk about the emergence of a new Euro-Reich once Maastricht is ratified.

Putting his finger on a particularly raw nerve, Herr Kohl mused that, with all its glories, France should be above such an "inferiority complex". Rather than conjuring up the Dantesque imagery with which some of his colleagues have been painting a Maastrichtless Europe, M. Mitterrand said merely that failure to vote "Yes" in the referendum on September 20 would be a great pity.

The worst the conservative *Figaro* could find to say of M. Mitterrand's performance was that, while it was undoubtedly brilliant, "the president is so unpopular that silence and absence are his best weapons".

In an unusual admission, M. Mitterrand himself put his unpopularity down to the fact that he had been around for 11 years and his Socialist party for all but two of them. He urged the French to vote on Europe and not him, though he left open the question of whether in the event of a "No" he would step down.

According to his aides, M. Mitterrand, a mean hand in intellectual debate, spent no time rehearsing one of the most momentous performances of his career and neither he nor M. Séguin came armed with a single sound bite. Only in conversation with typical voters did emotions rise to the surface, troubling the elegant ambience of the show.

However, Mitterrand opponents from the right yesterday called foul over the choice of 14 "typical" French, saying there was a suspicious number of Socialists, schoolteachers and ecologists among them.

In his debate, M. Séguin disappointed supporters with a somewhat pedantic approach that failed to hit the issues which are worrying so many voters. He also engaged M. Mitterrand in a duel of unctuous courtesies that prompted Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of the hard-right National Front to conclude that he was applying for a job in the next government.

"I am sorry, I am interrupting you too much," said the president at one stage. "No, please do," said a beaming M. Séguin. The cartoon in *Le Monde* had M. Séguin saying to M. Mitterrand: "If I may be so bold, Mr President, I am awfully sorry to have to beg your pardon, but excuse me I'm saying 'No'."

Limiting the damage, page 12
Leading article, page 13
Letters, page 13

Typecast voters live up to their image

Unlike in Denmark, sex and ideology do not appear to be good indicators of the voters' intentions in France, reports Charles Bremner from Paris

Stiff, proud and punctilious, Roger Crampe was conscious of his moment in history when he rose in the amphitheatre of the Sorbonne to challenge President Mitterrand on national television.

"I won't give you the power to annul France. Economic and monetary policy would be dictated to us from outside by stateless technocrats," snapped M. Crampe, 60, a Gaullist former postal worker. He was so much the caricature of the elderly conservative, provincial government worker that it seemed if the *Sofres* polling firm had telephoned central casting when it went in search of 14 typical voters to argue both for and against the Maastricht treaty with the president.

But the trouble with the referendum is that there is no such thing as a "typical" opponent of the treaty or a supporter. Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader, is in favour, as are most people of M. Crampe's age. To the despair of the pollsters and party campaigners, opinion is scattered all over the neat social, political and economic groups which they traditionally use to slice up French society and aim their sales pitches. Sex is not even an indicator, as it was in Denmark, since French men and women are equally divided.

Also for the "No" side in the debate, the polling firm came up with three angry peasants, one of whom accused M. Mitterrand of wielding the common agricultural policy as a "weapon of genocide", as well as a group of shopkeepers. On the "Yes" side, the pollsters brought in three teachers — a suspiciously large quota — and a clutch of technicians, businessmen and students who seemed to have ecology in common.

One typical citizen was, in fact, a German translator who had married a Frenchman. Not a single sympathiser of the extreme National Front and the Communist Party appeared. Life was easier for

the French and their pollsters when they could throw themselves into grand causes, signing up for the "ism" of the day — from Bonapartism to Pétainism, Marxism to Mitterrandism — and march with armies of like-minded allies who talked and dressed alike.

There is no shared ideology in the "Yes" or "No" vote. In the referendum, the first thing a voter will do is tell you how much they cannot stand the others on the same side. For example, the big Gaullist "No" crowd, led by Philippe Séguin will barely talk to the Socialists, Communists and ecologists who share their view. On the "Yes" side, the businessmen and middle-aged professionals who view a "No" as disastrous, have no time for President Mitterrand and his government.

Poring over the findings of its latest poll, *L'Express* magazine concluded this week that the country seemed to be splitting into two new groups. One, consisting of the young and the elderly, middle and higher executives, educators and some professionals, see themselves as citizens of the world and "cannot even imagine why their fellow citizens could be driven to vote 'No'."

The second group is weighted towards the less educated, thinks about making ends meet, see Eurocrats everywhere and "dreams about bringing down to earth the little and big chiefs of the political establishment".

According to the pollsters, if you absolutely had to pick a surefire "No" voter, you would take a peasant farmer or a skilled worker aged 40. A good bet for a "Yes" would be any student under 25 or a pensioner from a professional background. Age seems to be the only big defining factor in the referendum, with the youngest and oldest voters heavily favouring Maastricht and a majority of those aged 25-60 opposed.

Jacques Delors, the Commission president, praised M. Mitterrand's performance.



Progress report: a Parisian brings himself up to date with coverage of President Mitterrand's television appearance where he debated the Maastricht treaty. French voters give their verdict on September 20

Germans berate do-nothing Kohl

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

BONN chaos was the words *Bild* used in its front-page headline yesterday. "Do something, Kohl!" The mass-circulation daily, which elevated the chancellor to heroic status at the time of unification, has turned against him amid signs that even his own Christian Democrats would like to dump him before the 1994 general election.

With troubles in Germany, Helmut Kohl has been conspicuous by his absence. "Germany in dire need — and what is the chancellor doing?" the *Köln Express* asked yesterday. His appearance on French television in support of President Mitterrand on Thursday was longer than any he has made on German television all summer.

His willingness to talk about uniting Europe contrasts with his reluctance to talk about united Germany and suggests he has become bored with domestic politics. The country is looking to him in vain for the kind of leadership he showed in bringing the two Germans together. Bundestag members are thinking more positively about a grand coalition to tackle the problems that the chancellor shows no signs of confronting.

The most serious potential threat is the surge in electoral support for right-wing extremism. Herr Kohl has blamed the opposition for the violence more than he has condemned the hooligans involved and the feeling is growing that he is fiddling with the constitution

while the hostels burn. Although many of the youths who have been throwing petrol bombs at asylum hostels are too young to vote, polls show that the right-wing Republicans could well win enough seats to hold the balance of power after the 1994 election. They did so in the Baden-Württemberg state elections in May, forcing the Christian Democrats to form a government with the Social Democrats. Talk of a grand coalition nationally is therefore gaining credence.

In contrast to Herr Kohl, Björn Engholm, the Social Democratic leader, has been conspicuously busy. He has insisted on considering substantial changes to party policy limiting the right-of-asylum

and allow German troops to take part in United Nations missions around the world. He has proposed ideas for raising money to finance east German recovery, backed tougher measures against crime and spoken out against the youths who attack refugees. Herr Engholm told the conservative *Süddeutsche Zeitung* that he was ready to serve in a grand coalition, but only if Herr Kohl was not a member of the government.

The newspaper commented that the government's inability to cope with the problems of unification was making a grand coalition a plausible option. The Christian Democratic Union could not continue doing the splits between east and west, the paper said.

Dubcek's driver arrested

Prague, Czechoslovak police investigating the car crash in which Alexander Dubcek was seriously injured, have held his chauffeur for questioning after evidence that he was driving the BMW at about 140 mph through an infamous accident black spot (Gerard Davies writes).

Vaclav Havel, the former president, visited the 70-year-old hero of the 1968 Prague Spring in hospital on Thursday where doctors say he has made a slight improvement three days after being catapulted from the car when it drove off the motorway and plunged into a ravine. Neither man was wearing a seatbelt and Mr Dubcek sustained multiple injuries. He could be paralysed for life.

Mr Dubcek will almost certainly be forced to retire from political life and to turn down any offer of the new presidency of Slovakia, which moved closer to independence on Thursday when Vladimir Meciar, the prime minister, signed the new constitution.

Dream start

Paris: Euro Disney said that six million people had visited its theme park since it opened in April, giving it the most successful start of any of the fantasy lands. (Reuters)

Trains collide

Stockholm: Thirty-five people were slightly injured when two suburban commuter trains collided head-on, but at slow speed, during the rush-hour. (Reuters)

Gliders held

Brussels: Two Belgians who flew halfway across Europe in a motorised hang-glider to celebrate the end of the Cold war are under arrest in Ukraine because they flew over a military airport. (Reuters)

800 years' jail

Jerusalem: Three Palestinians who waged a terror campaign against alleged collaborators with the Israelis were sentenced to more than 800 years in jail for multiple murders, attempted murders and abductions. (AFP)

Unkindest cut

Amsterdam: A Dutchman who went into hospital to be circumcised in preparation for his wedding day awoke to be told by doctors he had been given a vasectomy because of a mix-up in records. (Reuters)

Cabinet purge

Oslo: Gro Harlem Brundtland, the prime minister of Norway, has replaced six of her cabinet, including Tove Strand-Gerhardsen, the labour minister, who opposed membership of the EC. (AP)

Aid for rhino

Nairobi: The UN has appointed a special envoy based in Kenya to lead attempts to save the world's rhinos from extinction by poachers who kill them for their horns, sold for aphrodisiacs and dagger handles. (Reuters)

Cash limits

Tokyo: Rioting broke out in several North Korean cities after the government ordered citizens last month July to exchange old banknotes for new ones but limited how much they could convert. (AP)

Kidding billy

Port-Vendres, France: François Ruiz has a 18-month-old hermaphrodite billy-goat Ringu which, he says, in addition to having sired 45 kids so far, produces a fresh glass of milk daily. (AFP)

Italian MP's suicide brings cry of 'witch-hunt'

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME



Craxi: blamed judge for Moro's suicide

ITALIAN commentators, shaken by the suicide of a Socialist MP under investigation for corruption in Milan, urged the government yesterday to prepare Italy for Europe by granting an amnesty to thousands of establishment figures believed to be enmeshed in the bribery scandal.

The death of Sergio Moro, 45, who was buried in Brescia yesterday, forced parliamentarians to address more serious issues than the accounts of amorous holiday adventures. Bettino Craxi, the Socialist leader, seized on the suicide to emphasise his criticism of Judge Antonio Di

Pietro and the team of single-minded magistrates handling "Operation Clean Hands" in Milan. "They have created a disgraceful atmosphere," Signor Craxi told reporters after paying his last respects to Signor Moro.

Throughout the summer the Socialist newspaper *Avanti* has conducted a campaign in its editorial columns against Judge Di Pietro, suggesting that he was friendly with some of the businessmen implicated in the alleged corruption affair. It also implied that the magistrates who have ordered the arrest of more than 80 people suspected of involvement in

the deals may have conspired to discredit the Socialists and the other main parties. Some Socialist politicians apparently hope that the team of magistrates may be taken off the case and transferred to other cities if the mud can be made to stick.

The sniping at the magistrates has caused a revolt within the Socialist party. Rivals of Signor Craxi, among them Carlo Ripa di Meana, the environment minister and former European commissioner, have threatened to resign if the Milan enquiry is obstructed. The Milan investigators deny that they are conducting a witch-hunt. The

judges received support yesterday from commentators in all the leading newspapers, reflecting public opinion.

But Giorgio Bocca, one of Italy's most distinguished columnists, yesterday suggested that Italy should assess its options on how to rid itself of a corrupt political class. "It is clear that following the last 15 or 20 years of abuses committed in the name of the moral superiority of the party, the number of people who could be prosecuted could be 20,000 or 50,000, that is to say a large part of the ruling political and industrial class," he wrote in *La Repubblica*.

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Zhivkov appeals to history as he is jailed for embezzlement



Zhivkov: "charges do not concern me"

TODOR Zhivkov, the former communist dictator of Bulgaria, yesterday became the first of the deposed East European leaders to be jailed by a civil court. In courtroom No 15 in Sofia's Palace of Justice — where peasant leader Nikola Petkov was sentenced to death in 1947 — Zhivkov was handed a seven-year jail sentence for embezzling state funds.

The sentence was the climax to an 18-month trial that was often laced with Zhivkov's black humour and stopped well short of revealing how the communists manipulated and almost wrecked the Bulgarian economy. The former Bulgarian leader is now a withered 80-year-old pensioner, though he is still vain enough to dye his hair red. He has appealed against the sentence and will probably continue living

The trial of Bulgaria's former dictator never touched on the real crimes of the communist regime, Roger Boyes writes

under house arrest in his granddaughter's spacious villa outside Sofia.

Zhivkov had been accused of buying luxury cars and apartments for his family and friends drawing on some £12 million of state funds. He denied the charge and never seemed to take it very seriously; the very essence of leadership in the Balkans is that family and courtiers are rewarded for their loyalty. Details of the payments spilled out of 216,000 pages of court evidence but the real story — how Bulgaria's communist political class managed to

convert its power into wealth — never really emerged.

Nor did the hearings touch on the wrongdoings of the Socialist party (the renamed Communist party). "Have my former colleagues forgotten that we parted with a kiss?" asked Zhivkov during the trial. "Who is the Judas here?" he asked.

"Only history and the Bulgarian people can judge me. I was in history and I will remain in history," Zhivkov told Reuters in a telephone interview from his granddaughter's villa. "The verdict was directed against the Bul-

garian people and Bulgaria. I was not connected to the things I was charged with. The charges do not concern me."

A round-up earlier this summer of over 40 former communist officials may eventually answer Zhivkov's question. One of his prime ministers is awaiting trial for misappropriating housing money. And the last communist prime minister, Andrej Lukanov — a reformer briefly admired in the West — is accused of illegally channeling state funds to Third World countries.

Corruption charges are the easiest to pin on former dictators. It is far more complex to prove "political" responsibility in a totalitarian regime. That is why Zhivkov has little to fear from other charges being

worked out against him — that he sponsored international terrorism, that he ordered the brutal expulsion of Bulgarian Turks and that he set up two concentration camps for political dissidents.

This dilemma also explains the confidence of the lawyers of Erich Honecker, the former East German leader, awaiting trial in his comfortable suite in Berlin's Moabit prison. To prove that Herr Honecker personally ordered the shooting of those trying to escape to the West will be difficult.

The Nazi regime, the best documented of all dictatorships, showed how complex it is to apply normal rules of evidence to a secretive and malevolent system. Hitler would make his views known to his inner circle and a so-called Führer-order would be

passed on. But a document carrying the order was often destroyed and there were usually few witnesses to Hitler's original command.

In Balkan dictatorships the problem was compounded by the fact that the leader's henchmen often acted on their initiative although invoking the authority of their boss. One theory about the murder in London of Georgi Markov, the Bulgarian dissident, is that the secret police wanted to present the news of his death to Zhivkov as a surprise birthday present.

Apart from Nicolae Ceausescu, the Romanian tyrant, who was shot after a hurried military tribunal, most East European leaders managed to settle into a comfortable obscurity. Not a single member of the

Jaruzelski leadership in Poland has been put on trial and many have been writing profitable memoirs. That might explain the anger behind the macabre killing this week of Piotr Jaroszewicz, the former communist prime minister. Police are still trying to work out whether the motive was political, a personal vendetta or robbery.

Janos Kadar of Hungary, and Gustav Husak of Czechoslovakia have died but their former politburos have not been touched. Instead, political legislation is being put in place in Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland that restricts the rights of former communists or agents to occupy public posts. This is a way of defusing the issue of secret police files. But many people have a sense of being cheated.

Muslims drive Serbs from hilltop post overlooking Gorazde

FROM JOHN FULLERTON IN GORAZDE

BOSNIA'S Muslim forces have won a key battle, but have failed to break the three-month Serb siege of Gorazde, witnesses said yesterday. Reporters accompanying a UN convoy carrying 60 tonnes of food and medicine to the 35,000 residents saw ample evidence of Serb fighters having been forced back several miles from hills dominating the town to the north.

"The siege was not broken," Kemal Kuljuh, the mayor of Gorazde, said, "but we have driven them back, and this has relieved the pressure."

However, the official Serbian version of events — that Serb forces voluntarily withdrew in accordance with the

agreements reached at last month's peace conference in London — was not borne out by the evidence on the ground. For miles along a mountain track, discarded helmets, uniforms and decaying bodies indicated more of a rout than an orderly retreat.

An overturned Serbian T55 tank, empty ammunition boxes, gas masks and mortar bomb cases led the way to what had been a Serb post overlooking the town below. It is now occupied by Bosnian Muslims who say they overran the hill on Monday.

Gorazde is approached from the northeast and the last Serb positions are now around Rogavici. Beyond that a no-

man's-land in rugged wooded hills is littered with destroyed cars and trucks. Gunmen in the trees shoot across the ridges, bullets striking the foliage overhead.

The UN convoy, escorted by French troops with Egyptian and Ukrainian drivers, edged forward because of the danger of mines. It was the second convoy that had reached Gorazde in three months. The last one got through on August 16.

Four bloated, decomposing corpses, one of them a woman, lay belly-up in the middle of the mountain road. There were also signs of a hasty exodus of presumably Serb civilians — clothes, shoes, and bundles of belongings — scattered among the oaks. What had been their homes on the slopes leading down from captured Serb lines to Gorazde itself were deserted, roofless and blackened by fire. Villagers ran in and out of the damaged houses pulling out bedding and furniture and leading the way for livestock.

As the UN convoy started back for Sarajevo, several Serb homes had been set ablaze. Clothing and personal belongings appeared to have been thrown out of the windows on to the ground.

The immediate impression was that looting was in progress and the sight of at least a dozen dead pigs lying in the street and several gardens indicated that some form of spontaneous "ethnic cleansing" had taken place. The animals had been shot. Had the Muslims driven out the Serb civilians and killed their pigs? "No," said Mr Kuljuh. "There were no Serbs living up that road. The pigs were killed by shelling." But he acknowledged that Muslims did not own pigs.

The Muslim half of Gorazde is still being shelled from the mainly Serb east bank and sniper rounds cracked out across the town's badly damaged hospital. "They shell us, but not so much as before and from further away," a retired school teacher said.

Mr Kuljuh confirmed that his people were entirely reliant on UN relief aid and what they could produce themselves. He said they were unable to move freely in or out of the now slightly enlarged area under Muslim control.

"The food the last convoy brought in was enough for three days. People who live in the town have nothing at all. Those who live outside the town centre are able to grow fruit and vegetables," he added. (Reuters)



Eyes right: an army officer in Alma-Ata yesterday shows a recruit to the new Kazakhstan National Guard the soldier's way of standing

Belgrade accepts London accord

FROM DESSA TREVISAN AND TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

MILAN Panic, the Yugoslav prime minister, scored a key victory as a hostile parliament was persuaded that unless it accepted the obligations of the London conference, the country would be saddled with stricter sanctions and total isolation.

The parliament voted overwhelmingly by 111 to 33 to accept the results of the conference which has set up permanent negotiating bodies in Geneva, but Mr Panic still had to face a debate of no-confidence in his premiership. "There will be no peace if we dig our heels in," Mr Panic said. But Vojislav Seselj, the extreme nationalist who, together with members of the ruling Socialist party, had tabled the no-confidence motion, argued that the London conference was an attempt to sap Serbian strength. This, he said, would lead to an armed Western intervention aimed at reducing Serbia to all but its heartland south of Belgrade.

"The government must fall because it has said that it is the Serbs who are aggressors but it was the West that provoked war in Bosnia," said Mr Seselj. Mr Panic said: "Those who are inspiring the snipers to shoot and those who are bringing down planes which are bringing in blankets for children will have the whole world against them."

Outside parliament a crowd cheered Mr Panic despite his appeal for demonstrators not to come. "I'll let you know when I need you," he said before the debate.

When the Serbian-Ameri-

can was appointed prime minister six weeks ago it was widely assumed that he had been brought back from California to rescue Yugoslavia's shattered international reputation. In fact, Mr Panic has succeeded in wooing domestic support from a people tired of war and not adverse to hearing the home truths preached by their exarct and open leader. "You think you can fight the whole world," he said recently, "well I tell you have no chance whatever."

Mr Panic's growing popularity has clearly left supporters of Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, in a quandary. Mr Panic was not supposed to take on a political role in his own right but with growing domestic and international support any attempt to get rid of him could plunge the country into further disaster.

Mr Panic has skillfully manipulated the Serbian media and he has the crucial support of Montenegro's senior politicians. Serbia's small ally, the only other component of the reconstituted Yugoslavia, felt cheated as Serbs consolidated their power in the new state and now Mr Panic is seen as a safeguard against further encroachments on power.

The prime minister has also moved to woo the army, humiliated by its failure to keep Yugoslavia whole. On Thursday Mr Panic said that if he really needed support then he would call on the army. Asked if they supported him he replied: "You never know until you try."

Kate Adie caught in crossfire

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

KATE Adie, the BBC's chief news correspondent, sustained a "painful" bruising to her right foot yesterday when her BBC armoured Land-Rover came under fire in Sarajevo. A metal splinter from one of five bullets which strafed the BBC vehicle struck her foot.

Miss Adie, who went to the Bosnian capital last week to replace Martin Bell after he was wounded by shrapnel, was driving along a dangerous road between central Sarajevo and the airport to meet a UN convoy taking aid to the besieged Gorazde. Miss Adie, 46, is the latest journalist to get caught in the crossfire in a war which has so far claimed the lives of 27 reporters and photographers and injured at least 100 more.

The BBC said it was the second close shave Miss Adie, a veteran of dangerous battle zones, has had in the former Yugoslavia. Two days after arriving, a piece of mortar shrapnel ricocheted off her helmet as she prepared a report in a room near the UN headquarters.

Mother shows Muscovites the boy who would be tsar

YOUNG Georgi Mikhailovich, who was plainly longing to run out into the street and get his new blazer dirty, squirmed when a lady journalist asked him in Russian whether he expected to ascend the throne.

"Ya nadeyas," he muttered — I hope so. The question was repeated in English, in the hope of producing a sound-bite for American television; but the princeling, 12, only mumbled, until his mother, the Grand Duchess Maria Vladimirovna, prompted an appropriate English reply: "Time will tell."

Their Imperial Highnesses were visiting the city fathers of Moscow in the recently acquired capacity as first and second in line to the Russian throne. Since the death of her father, Vladimir Kirillovich, in April, the noblewoman, 39, who currently lives in France and Spain has voiced interest in taking up residence in Russia, a prospect that has thrilled local monarchists.

Apart from the journey the two made to bury the late pretender in St Petersburg, the "royal visit" is providing Russians with their first opportunity to see the lady who might one day be their empress, and the boy who would

'Imperial' visit cheered monarchists, writes Bruce Clark in Moscow

be Tsar. Maria Vladimirovna's meeting with Yuri Luzhkov, the Soviet bureaucrat-turned-mayor of Moscow, went smoothly enough, and even her son brightened up when presented with a magnificent antique rifle.

Indeed the mayor and the heiress have certain things in common: both maintain semi-permanent, beatific smiles (except in repose when they look pragmatic and shrewd); and they are both imposing figures who move with authority and purpose.

More important, they appear to concur on the superiority of Orthodox Christianity over other religions, although Mr Luzhkov's views on the subject may be of more recent acquisition than the royal visitor's.

Much of their hour-long conversation focused on the huge effort that was underway to restore Moscow's

churches, and on the fact that more parents were demanding religious education for their children. While emphasising that Orthodoxy would always have pride of place, Mr Luzhkov added cautiously that the town hall also sympathised with, and tried to help, all 27 religious faiths that were known to operate in the capital.

That comment did not appear to meet the approval either of the grand duchess, or her mother, Grand Duchess Leonida Georgievna, who was sitting beside her. So Mr Luzhkov retreated somewhat: it was true, he said, that there was "a certain aggressiveness" about the behaviour of the Roman Catholic Church. "Orthodoxy is continuously strengthening its position, and this is very welcome."

The mayor was on firmer ground when he boasted of the efforts to restore Moscow's secular glories. The Bolshoi Theatre, he pointed out, had been rescued by a grant from President Yeltsin. This had staved off the risk of the building's restoration being placed in the hands of nasty foreigners, who would have dictated its repertoire and taken control of the distribution of tickets.

30 die in Tajikistan fighting

FROM MARK TREVELYAN IN DUSHANBE

AT LEAST 30 people have been killed in three days of fighting between supporters and opponents of President Nabyev of Tajikistan in the former Soviet republic. Tajik radio said yesterday. The clashes took place in the southern region of Kurgan-Tyube, near the Afghanistan border.

The mountainous country, rocked by months of sporadic clashes between ethnic, religious and political rivals, was left in a dangerous political limbo yesterday as parliament argued about Mr Nabyev's fate. Deputies were summoned to the capital Dushanbe to vote on a joint decision by the cabinet and parliamentary leadership this week, to oust the former Communist Party boss.

But officials said only 80 of the 221 members turned up, way below the required quorum of 154. "There will be no session today. The deputies may consult on some questions but the session has no legal force. They can't even confirm the agenda," a spokesman said. (Reuters)

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Clifford Longley

The nuns in Auschwitz should pack up and leave

One of the immediate effects of the graphic publicity given to conditions in Yugoslav detention camps was a strong protest at the inhuman treatment of Bosnian Muslims made by British Jewish leaders, led by the Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks. Jewish feeling was intensely stirred by the sight and sound of a concentration camp and by memories aroused by emaciated victims behind barbed wire.

Gentiles have such feelings of horror too, but only in the case of the Jews are they etched so deep. This is true 47 years after the last Nazi camp was liberated, and true among Jews born after the war, whereas most of their non-Jewish contemporaries regard the second world war as the business of an earlier generation. The unswerving refusal to forget the camps which marks Jewish attitudes today makes good this neglect by others, and serves as a crucial defence of human rights and civil liberties in the modern age.

The Jews are thus destined to be sentries posted on behalf of civilisation to guard against all such racial persecution and similar crimes against humanity, until the end of time and for the benefit of all mankind. But valuable as it is, this role will be performed on Jewish terms, which may not look reasonable to everybody else.

They include, for instance, perpetually reminding the Germans who it was that instigated the Holocaust, and perpetually reminding Poles, Ukrainians, Latvians and to a lesser extent most of the other races of Europe, who the Germans' willing or unwilling accomplices were. Nor will the Christian church be allowed to forget its part in preparing the European soil for racial anti-Semitism over the previous centuries, even though its hostility to Jews never went much beyond opposition to Judaism as a religion.

Jewish terms also include the appropriation of certain symbols. Auschwitz is such a case. Hundreds of thousands of Poles died there, along with several times that many Jews. Perhaps the Jews have no right to regard Auschwitz as exclusively their memorial, but they do and there is no arguing with them. For instance, it is deeply offensive to many Jews, including members of the urbane and tolerant British Jewish community, that a convent of Roman Catholic nuns has planted itself inside the boundaries of Auschwitz, there to pray for the souls of the victims.

The nuns' mistake was understandable and forgivable at the outset. It is an automatic Christian response to suffering and martyrdom to mark its location with a shrine or chapel. In secular Britain, folk instinct still often prompts the family of a road accident fatality to mark the spot with flowers, so creating a temporary roadside shrine. To beautify the spot is to combat the evil of the place with something good.

There is a celebrated (and snooker-playing) convent at the Tyburn execution site, off Hyde Park in London, where nuns maintain a continuous vigil of contemplative prayer in memory of the Roman Catholics martyred there in the 16th and 17th centuries. The Carmelite nuns at Auschwitz claim to be doing something similar. But Jews regard their presence as an intrusion into a place of Jewish desolation, just as if a Christian chapel were to be built in a Jewish cemetery.

Jewish attempts to have the convent moved have so far failed. First came confrontation, with an invasion of the convent by militant Jews. The Vatican and the church authorities in Poland — with the singular exception of the Auschwitz Carmelite superior, Sister Teresa — have since accepted the Jewish protests.

But the Carmelites, notwithstanding the rule of holy obedience, are a law unto themselves. When church and state made the decision to move the convent away from the precincts of the concentration camp to a new 'centre for information, dialogue, education and prayer' nearby, they forgot to consult Sister Teresa. Now it appears that she will not go. Unless it is by her very presence at Auschwitz, she is doing nothing overtly anti-Semitic.

Nevertheless what she is doing is unloving. That may sound like weak, sentimental grounds for criticising her, but her vocation is prayer and that is the sole purpose of her presence at Auschwitz. Prayer is charity. Unloving, uncharitable prayer is a contradiction: God does not listen to it. While she stays where she is, she is wasting her time, contrary to the rule of her order, her vocation and the example of her namesake, Teresa of Avila.

If France votes No, Europe can still salvage the best of the Maastricht treaty, says Michael Butler

President Mitterrand's television debate on Thursday may not sway many French voters, because No votes will be the result of many different political prejudices. While his description of the Maastricht Treaty was positive and welcome to Europeans such as myself, the way he and his supporters portray the consequences of a No vote is misleading.

Where will the European Community be if Maastricht proves to be stone dead on September 21, not just in intensive care? If — a big if — everyone is reasonable, it will be back where it was before, with a lot of effort wasted. We shall still have the Treaty of Rome, as amended by the Single European Act. We shall still have the single market, not yet perfect but a major plus. We shall still be able, indeed increasingly compelled by circumstances, to take common positions on all the world's many post-communist problems. Above all, we shall still have the exchange rate mechanism (ERM), of which the temporary

inconvenience to some countries, including Britain, is far outweighed by its long-term merits. The Bruges Group and some financial commentators seem to believe that the death of Maastricht would lead to the death of the European Monetary System (EMS). Why should this be so? The ERM has survived for 12 years, and for five without a realignment. Whether at some time in the future one or more further realignments will be required is another question. But there is no objective reason why a French No vote should lead to one. Provided that the markets accept that the governments and central banks of the EC are at present determined to stick to present policies and will abide by the EMS support rules, speculation will soon die down.

If we lost Maastricht, what should we have lost? The part of the treaty concerned with European Monetary Union (EMU) is by far the most important. But though it could lead to full monetary union if ratified, it is a curate's egg of a document, incorporating many good things, some based on the statute of the Bundesbank, but also conflicting and undesirable elements of both the French and German positions. The French wanted an automatic move to full monetary union, at least by 1999 — whereas in practice governments and central banks will not be ready to move unless the conditions are right. The Germans refused to give any real management role to the central banking institution (the European Monetary Institute) in stage two (1994-1997 or 1999), whereas common sense suggests, whatever the treaty says, that the idea of handing over full responsibility for monetary policy to an untried central bank will seem

too risky when the time comes. A pragmatic evolutionary approach will be needed to secure a successful transition to EMU. Even if Maastricht is ratified in its present form, some changes will, I believe, need to be agreed during stage two. If ratification is blocked, governments and central banks might look again at the "hard ecu" plan, which would have been a better route to monetary union, apart from its other advantages.

Many other changes are enshrined in the Maastricht Treaty amendments, some undesirable, such as the social policy provisions, some on the whole good, such as the moves forward on foreign and security policy. Member governments could perfectly well salvage anything that they all want, even if the French vote No.

I spent six years in Brussels as the government's representative

How to limit the damage

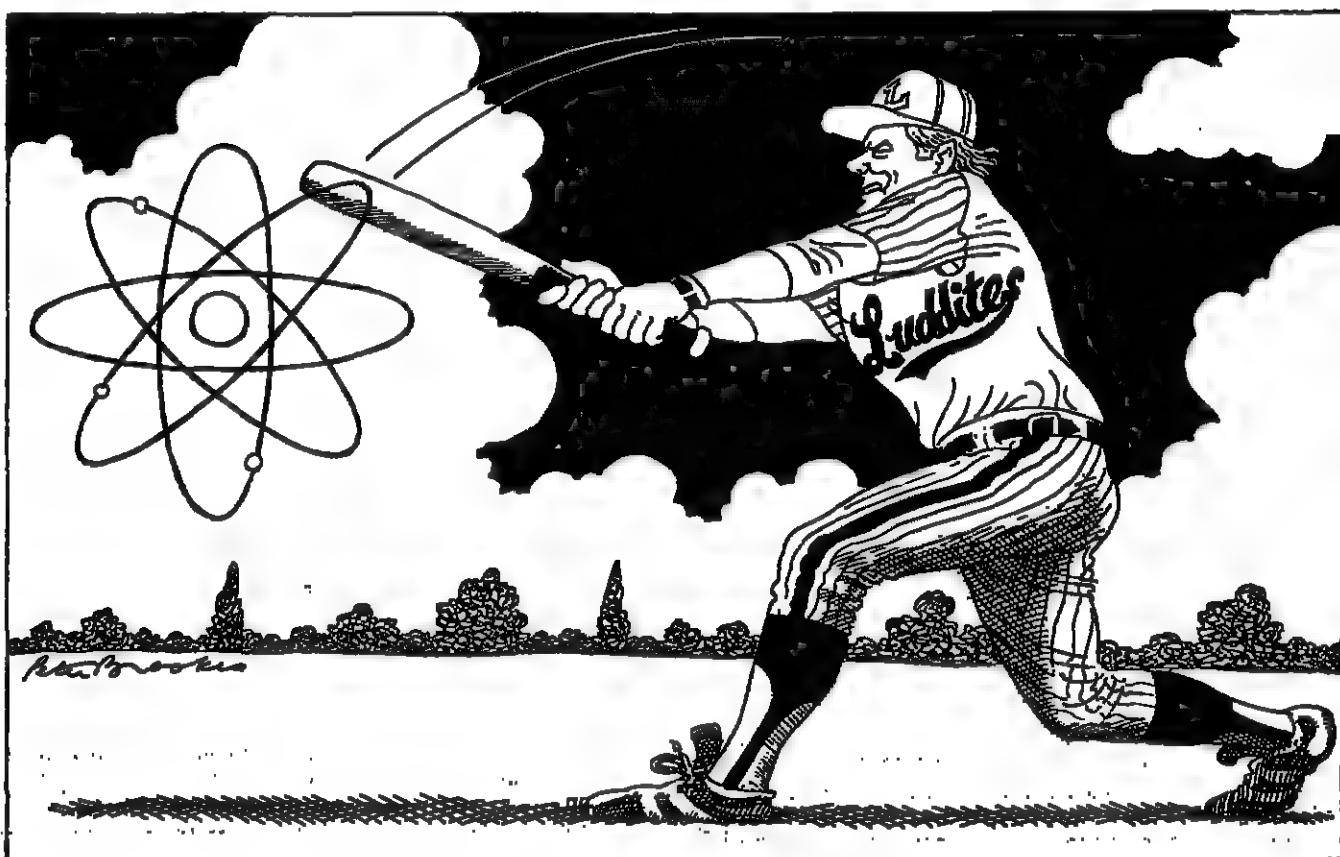
different things, into a document, after a flowery lead-in on European union, gave anti-marketisers in Denmark, Britain, France and elsewhere a wonderful opportunity to arouse the people in opposition. With hindsight, we can see that it would have been better to bring each element in Maastricht back to Parliament on its own and explain why it would be useful.

But let us not allow the commentators to go on assuming that a French No will lead to the collapse of the Community. If there is a No vote, it will be in some ways a pity, in others a relief. It will not mean that the EC is on the rocks. It will mean that all good Europeans, especially the British presidency, will have to rally round to ensure that what we have already is not undermined and to find new ways, acceptable to parliaments and to public opinion, of doing those Maastricht things which still ought to be done.

Sir Michael Butler was ambassador to Brussels 1979-85.

America's new Luddites

Ben Macintyre on the growing fears that science is out of control



but, they say, we have lost the ability to distinguish between machines that we use, and those that use us.

The guru of the new Luddism is the American social critic Neil Postman, head of New York University's Department of Communications, whose latest book *Technopoly: The Surrender of Culture to Technology* lays out the argument with millennialist fervour and great persuasiveness. "The uncontrolled growth of technology destroys the vital sources of our humanity," he writes. "It creates a culture without moral foundation. It undermines certain mental processes and social relations that make human life worth living."

Postman divides history into

eras. First come early tool-using cultures, in which inventions were integrated with current beliefs and those that did not fit in were rejected (as when the 12th-century crusaders obeyed a papal ban on the use of the cross-bow as being too lethal). Then comes technocracy, in which inventions such as the clock, the telescope and the printing press attack the culture and change it. Finally there is technopoly, totalitarian technocracy, in which machines dictate norms, scientific runs rampant, and belief systems and older cultures expire under a welter of more or less trivial information conveyed by an all-pervasive electronic media.

"New technologies alter the

structure of our interests: the things we think about," writes Postman. "They alter the character of our symbols: the things we think with. And they alter the nature of community: the area in which thoughts develop." In short, necessity is the mother of invention, but her children and grandchildren have become dangerously manipulative.

Postman argues that when technology was simply a tool, a servant rather than a master, "there still existed regional pride, and it was possible to conform to notions of family life... It was possible to believe in social responsibility and the practicality of individual action. It was even possible to believe in common sense and the wisdom of the

elderly. It was not easy, but it was possible." Vice-president Dan Quayle might not put it so well, but his views and those of many conservative Americans are not very far removed from this.

These ideas are not dramatically new. In his *Phaedrus*, Plato argued that the written word might stamp out other cultures, and he was right: Freud, Thoreau and Carlyle all wondered whether inventions were making life better and people happier, or just more complicated and unimaginative.

What is new, according to today's Luddites, is the sheer extent of the takeover, now that almost every aspect of American life is prey to technology. So far, America is the only technopoly,

but the rest of the world is catching up fast.

Postman's analysis offers no solution, save a plea for more liberal education, less Madonna more Mozart, less television, more conversation: it does not explore the economic reasons why new technology has eroded culture, and will continue to, any more than the politicians concerned at the perceived destruction of America's traditional family values have really looked at the causes of the changes they abhor. Both are nostalgic both want to turn the clock back: neither will succeed.

And yet, living in the ultimate technopolis, New York, I wonder whether the new Luddites do not have a point, and whether the inventions that are supposed to make high-tech life easier do not also make it less — well — life-like. My Sunday paper is so obese I need two hands to pick it up. I can "interfaze" on a computer with millions of people I never have to see or hear, "channel surf" the 70-odd stations on my television for company and entertainment, and obtain food, cinema tickets, books, videos and impossible quantities of data by pressing a series of buttons.

Virtual reality will soon be here, with computers so advanced they make people think that they are actually doing the things which they could, if they were not addicted to technology, go out and do. Next there will be virtual relationships, virtual conversations, virtual friends.

The word Luddites comes from the name of Ned Lud, a Leicestershire lunatic who smashed up two stocking-frames in 1779. But perhaps Ned Lud wasn't mad at all. On the other hand, I am sure that as Johann Gutenberg was putting the finishing touches to his printing press, somewhere in the backrooms of Mainz a 15th-century Ms Pensig leaned over to a 15th-century Mr Postman and whispered: "Welcome to Glitch. Here's what's going wrong..."



...and moreover PHILIP HOWARD

In the sentence "King Charles faced a bloody conflict that would divide his country for a decade", the use of "would" (where the natural British idiom is "was to") may be a creeping Teutonicism, on false analogy with *sollte*, brought into academic English by American scholars. What the Roundhead or Royalist on the ground at Turnham Green in 1642 swore was: "This bloody conflict is going to divide the country for the next decade," or words to that effect. The normal translation of this future prediction into the past is "King Charles faced a bloody conflict that was to divide his country for a decade." We dance on pin-points of idiom here. Neither alternative is right — or wrong.

The hack who wrote "would" may have done so inadvertently, through scribbling too fast, as we all do: he may have thought that "would" sounded more dramatic. But he may have been echoing a tiny Germanic change in grammar that is spreading from American scholars.

In the same way, "hopefully" came across the Atlantic twenty years ago, on false analogy with the Teutonic *hoffentlich* ("it is to be hoped, I hope so, let us hope so"), instead of *hoffnungs-voll*, which was the equivalent of the former English "hopeful-ly", in a hopeful manner. German has two adverbs for hoping, English only one. The new idiom caught on like wildfire, and "hopefully" meaning "it is to be hoped" has become part of British English.

The objections to it were always more tribal than grammatical. At first it sounded strange to British ears. Grammar is simply the usage that people decide to adopt, so "hopefully" used absolutely, meaning "it is to be hoped", has become "correct". There are dozens of other adverbs used absolutely in this way, from admittedly to undoubtedly. If you want to object to it still, you can say that it is a cliché, and a pompously roundabout way of saying "I hope". But in fact the Teutonic-American "hopefully" has introduced a useful little distinction from the purely individual viewpoint of "I hope". For example, an administrator writes: "My assistant has arranged for the matter to be considered by an ad hoc working party, and hopefully a proposal will be ready in time for our next meeting. I hope this approach will be acceptable." If you don't like hopefully used in this way, hopefully you are strong-minded enough to resist the fashion. Grammar is a democracy, not a tyranny.

Would that the new "would" were as clear-cut. In the trade, it is known as a modal auxiliary. These are linking verbs that are used to express degrees of likelihood, mood, and probability. The distinctions are fine, and English is rich in them.

Would has plenty of jobs. There is the one as the past of "will", as in, "A frog, he would be wailing go." Would can express volition: "Would I were with her, whosoever she is." It can express a conditional: "I would if I could, but I can't." It can ex-

press a habitual action: "He would enjoy a leisurely breakfast each Sunday with his wife." In formal use, it is often used instead of "should" with the first person I or we. Graham Greene: "I would have been content, I would never have repeated it." This "incorrect" use of would in the first person is understandable, because sometimes the context does not make clear whether "I should do" means "I would be the case that I did" or "I ought to do".

(a) He would have liked to have come, but could not make it. (b) He would like to have come... Everyone, from the literate to the ignoramus, seems to favour the unwieldy and unnecessary (a), (b) is OK. But what on earth is wrong with (c)?

Would can express the future in the past, as in: "I warned you that you would find Japanese difficult to learn." What I said at the time was: "You will find Japanese difficult to learn." This is the use of would that is closest to the one about King Charles that sounded funny. Would expresses a future in the past, but not so well the sense "was going to".

These are grammatical knots as fine as those that a triple cat gets into in a gale on a Scottish loch. "Who would have heard Sordello's story told." You should use the grammar that sounds best to your idiolect. And now, that is more than enough grammar for one day. I should / would / could / ought to go and lie down.

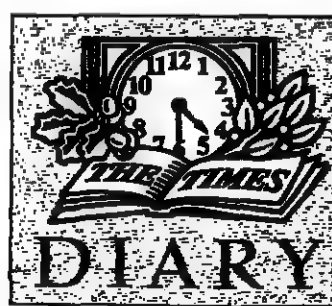
A song for charity

IN a warm and impulsive gesture, Carol Kidd, who is thought by many to be Britain's finest jazz singer, has donated all the royalties of her next record to charities of Terry Waite's choice.

Kidd, who was appearing last night at the Royal Festival Hall with the pianist George Shearing, made the decision after hearing Waite on the radio describe her recording of *When I Dream* as one of his all-time favourites. Waite, who is now writing his memoirs at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, is thrilled at the offer, which is likely to amount to £50,000. "I have decided to divide the money between Amnesty International and Drought for Africa," he says. Yesterday, Amnesty, for which Waite has launched a worldwide appeal, was still unaware of the gift, but said it would be "delighted" to receive the money.

Waite's favourite jazz singer has a string of awards to her name, including the Edinburgh Festival Critics' Award, the industry's Best Jazz Record Award for *The Night We Called It a Day* (her fourth record), and another for British Best Jazz Singer. The daughter of a Glaswegian coalminer, Kidd is now in her mid-forties and lives close to the Waite family home in Cambridgeshire. Last year she supported Frank Sinatra at his Glasgow concert in front of a crowd of 25,000.

"I was knocked out when Terry Waite chose my record," she says. "I decided immediately to give the money from the next album to his favourite charities. The only effort it costs me is to stand up and sing for an hour or two. That is nothing beside the five years Terry spent in prison."



● Creditors of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International may soon be heading for Moscow. Kreditbank Moskau, a newly privatised Russian bank, placed an advertisement in Moscow newspapers this week, announcing that it will now cash cheques issued by foreign banks. The ad was illustrated with cheques from BCCI.

No thanks, Jack

AS Lord Owen tries to restore peace in the Balkans, he may find Radovan Karadzic, the leader of the Bosnian Serbs, less co-operative than he hoped. Karadzic is still simmering over the invitation he issued two months ago to Owen and Paddy Ashdown to see conditions in the country for themselves. While Ashdown accepted with alacrity, and built himself a media reputation as an instant expert, Karadzic has not heard from the man who is now Europe's official peace envoy. "We cannot understand his silence," says an aide.

Despite reports to the contrary, however, one politician who has not been invited is Dr Jack Cunningham, the new shadow foreign secretary, who has been heavily criticised for being ineffective over the Balkans. Karadzic said yesterday: "There has been no invitation to Labour. We have had 50 years of socialism. The last thing we want is any more."

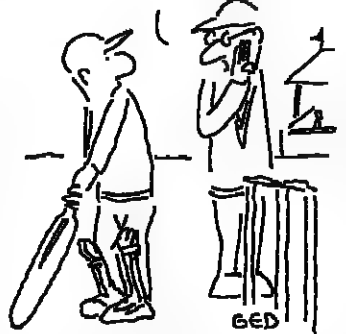
Hands on victory

PETER O'TOOLE, Harold Pinter and all manner of other theatrical folk were upstaged and outplayed on the cricket fields of Ampleforth last week.

A three-day tournament saw Pinter's eleven, the Galettes, pitched against O'Toole's team, the Lazarusians, while the Virgin Records side took on the Old Aconians, a team of regulars from the Ace Sauna, massage parlour in Chelsea's King's Road.

In the final, the Old Aconians beat O'Toole's team. "We were very surprised to win," says Edward Atkinson, a Lloyd's broker from the

They've been messaging the scores



victorious side. "We fielded what we thought was a fairly average team. I was batting number eleven, but we did have Archie Cotterell, a Cambridge Blue, opening."

And how was the winning batting order determined? "You had to have made at least three visits to the sauna to get in the team, and the more visits you make, the higher your place in the order." Graham Gooch and the new England team manager Keith Fletcher might care to take note.

● The Georgian Society, bastion of old fogeyism, was busy updating its image last night with the launch of the Young Georgian Society for like-minded young fogies between 20 and 30. The new Georgians announced themselves with a party at Sir Francis Dashwood's ancestral pile, West Wycombe. Masterminded by Orlando Rock of Christie's and Harry Dalmy of Sotheby's, the costume ball was held in the notorious rooms of the Hell Fire Club. "A bacchanalian affair with drinking, dancing and pagan ritual," was Rock's eager description before the event. The debauchery, however, was for a good cause. The money raised will be used to dig bore holes to pump water into the lake at West Wycombe, which dried up three years ago.

Skiff competition

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY continues a family tradition today, competing in the boat championships on the Thames. Together with her sister Nicola Mardell and brother William Garnett, a solicitor, and Christopher Garnett, the commercial director of Eurotunnel, the secretary of state will row 22 miles from Richmond in Surrey to London Docklands in a sea skiff.

More than 140 boats have entered the championships, and every vessel must carry a passenger. Bottomley, however, will be rolling up her sleeves with the rest of the family. "Twenty-two miles against some stiff opposition is going to be a real challenge," she says. "Over the years we have rowed together in mixed, ladies' and men's doubles races. It is a tradition going back three generations." Today a fourth generation will be added: two of the Bottomley children will be in another skiff. Their father, Peter, the former transport minister, has sensibly decided to watch from the safety of the riverbank.



TOUGH ON CURRENCIES

The Bundesbank's do-or-die war on German inflation is continuing to dominate management of the European exchange-rate mechanism. Today's gathering of European finance ministers in Bath can do little more than mark time pending the French referendum on September 20. It could in theory agree to an immediate realignment of Europe's currencies within the mechanism, but there is no point in meddling with the system now when it may have to be meddled with again on September 21.

The finance ministers can at least count themselves lucky at the relief granted them by the Bank of England's foreign-currency loan on Thursday. In spite of the unofficial cut in the American federal fund rate down to 3 per cent last night, its lowest for almost 30 years. This will further increase the tension between the dollar and the mark, the underlying reason behind the present instability. It is now apparent that the Bank of England's intervention on Thursday did little more than save sterling from falling to the bottom of its range.

This does not render the Bank of England's chosen method and strategy of intervention less impressive. Borrowing, at least for the time being, is vastly preferable to sowing British industry through higher interest rates. But borrowing to maintain a currency parity is not the end of the story, merely a sideshow to the European Community's collective inability to beat recession. There is no sure sign that Britain has yet come through the worst of it. Germany and the others are hovering on the brink of their own downturns. Italy yesterday decided in desperation to raise its discount rate by 1.75 per cent to 15 per cent at a time of acute economic hardship. All this indicates how destructive is ERM inflexibility to the economic prosperity even of sophisticated European states.

Inactivity will thus continue for a further two weeks. If the French then vote in favour of the Maastricht treaty, the EC's leaders may not summon up the courage to re-

examine their respective currency values with a view to realignment. They would thus abandon all hope of using exchange-rate adjustment as a tool of revival and leave their economic and political fates at the mercy of the Bundesbank. Those who seek a more active European economic policy must hope that the French vote no, and galvanise the EC into forcing a mark revaluation on the German authorities. Although the French vote will of itself make no difference to the state of economic activity in Europe, its impact on the markets, so heavily forecast, will surely defy any amount of support from central reserve banks.

Finance ministers in Bath must thus be discussing in private the consequences of a no-vote and getting ready for a realignment. Such is the pompous majesty of fixed exchange-rate adjustments that they have become sensitive and technically complex; witness the last ERM realignment in January 1987. The next one should involve a revaluation of the mark's central rate against the ecu as well as a devaluation of some others, notably the Italian lira. There is also a case for a sterling devaluation. But what five years ago would have caused a mere flutter in the markets would now be a political humiliation, and one just two weeks before the Conservative conference.

A French no-vote would not in itself destroy the ERM though it would undoubtedly undermine further moves towards economic and monetary union. It might, however, call in question the nature and purpose of a system which has evolved from an exchange-rate management tool into the precursor of a common currency. The ERM was a successful counter-inflationary measure during the 1980s, largely because most governments chose to treat it as such. Led by the Germans, it helped discipline inflation-induced finance ministries. Now the German anchor is dragging Europe ever deeper into recession. A French rejection of Maastricht would discredit a currency dirigisme that many regard as redundant if not dangerous.

HERE BECAUSE WE'RE HERE

"What are we here for?" George Woodcock, its most illustrious general secretary, once famously demanded of the Trades Union Congress. It is a question that has refused to go away. As the country's 72 TUC-affiliated unions gather at Blackpool, the purpose and function of trade unions in British life — to say nothing of the justification for a cumbersome portmanteau central organisation — has never looked more in doubt.

Only a dozen years ago the unions were still an important estate of the realm. In 1980, the first full year of the Thatcher government, the TUC could boast of having over 12 million members; today that figure is reduced to 7.75 million, with membership still steadily falling — by nearly half-a-million last year.

The barons and chieftains of the movement like, of course, to place all the blame on the recession. Developments even within their own organisations tell a different story. Over the past decade, the merger of large unions and small ones has become the fashion. Even the traditional numerical supremacy of the once-mighty Transport and General Workers' Union will come under active threat if the engineers, having successfully concluded a marriage with the electricians (thereby causing some awkward problems of recognition for the TUC itself), now go on to add the Manufacturing Science and Finance Union to their swelling household.

There is nothing wrong with the emergence of super-unions. Back in the glory days of political clout and regular beer and sandwiches in Downing Street, amalgamations used constantly to be urged by the more far-seeing occupants of Congress House such as George Woodcock himself. But it is bound to affect the entire power-balance and structure of the British trade

union movement. The gravamen of the charge against the TUC's present general secretary, the battered but as yet unbowed Norman Willis, is that he appears to have absolutely no appetite for such internal institutional reform.

The final remnant of internal constitutional power the TUC enjoys is that enshrined in the Bridlington Agreement. This is the "solemn and binding" undertaking by which the individual unions agreed in 1959 not to poach one another's members and to abide by the judgments of the TUC as to who could recruit when and where. In an age of the free market, that power has come to look increasingly indefensible. Even before the election, the government had prepared plans to outlaw it.

The brothers at Blackpool thus confront some hard choices. It is no secret that many senior figures (especially those running or looking forward to running super-unions) regard the whole umbrella contraption of Congress and the General Council as superfluous to the requirements of modern society. If the TUC exists for anything, it is essentially for representational purposes — and now that the CBI (whose new director-general will actually be the star speaker at the Congress) has taken over the role of being the voice of British industry, even that sounding-board function has become less and less relevant.

An organisation that has been in being ever since 1868, over three decades longer than the Labour party, certainly deserves an honourable burial. But there can be no purpose in preserving the life of an outmoded institution simply for sentimental reasons. In the industrial, just as much as in the political world, the TUC has ceased to answer any realistic need. Having no useful function to perform, it is time the old car-horse was put out to grass.

HARMONY IN TIME

Brussels officials want harmonisation of time throughout the European Community. They appear to think a simultaneous alteration of clocks and watches from Berlin to Gibraltar, with simultaneous wrestling twice a year with the question of the hours — is it one hour forward, or is it one hour back? — would beneficially induce a Europe-wide sense of collective disorientation. They should let the British work out the time for themselves.

Even so, the answer is liable to come out the same. The British are slaves to the hour-hands on their clocks. Never mind the natural rhythms of day and night. The British insist on obedience to Greenwich Mean Time in winter. British Summer Time in summer. No matter that the entire nation is at liberty to move the start and finish of the working day backwards or forwards as convenience (and daylight) demands. It does no such sensible thing.

Just as John Bull ignores the true state of his stomach and troops off for lunch at 1pm precisely (as if going to lunch at 12.30 would be a sin crying out to heaven for vengeance), so he rises at 7.15, or whenever he rises, because the alarm clock tells him to — winter or summer, hell or high water, dark or light. That being the obstinate way he is made, he should be positively grateful at the prospect of an adjustment of his clocks being taken out of his hands.

Of the 4,380 hours of daylight each year, hundreds are wasted because people sleep through them. They wake up after sunrise, on average, during nine months of the year. For virtually the whole year, unless they be northern Scotsmen, they carry on part of their waking lives in evening darkness. They run into each other on the roads. Old ladies fear to set foot out of doors. Having curtailed

the bedroom window to block out the light at one end of the day they use electricity to light up the darkness at the other end. All because the clock tells them to.

If ever there was a misfit between species and environment, this was it. And the obvious adaptation, which people simply refuse to make because nobody else is doing it, is to move the start of the day to an earlier time, by the clock, in order thus to make maximum use of the available light. Instead they sit around in the dark of an evening and blame the government for it.

What Brussels wants is harmonisation of hour-hands for reasons which have nothing to do with such British common sense as this. Greek captains of industry should be able to chat to Bavarian or Newcastle captains of industry by phone knowing that each of them has exactly the same time displayed on the clocks on their office walls. Why such a vision makes Brussels happy is part of the mystery of Europe, but it does. That Greeks, Bavarians and Geordies start and finish their days differently and eat at different times, that their children go to school and come home differently, not to mention that the sun rises and sets on all their doings differently, is a truth yet to enlighten the Brussels mind.

But if the standard time in Britain became Central European Time, which is one hour ahead of current British time, it so happens that that would also be a more efficient use of the available daylight. Not for the first time, Brussels wants to impose the right thing for the wrong reason. But that is no good reason for not doing the right thing. So goodbye Greenwich Mean Time. Central European Time it has to be. But could it not have a more British name?

France's vote on Maastricht

From Mr Michael Grenfell

Sir, According to your report (September 1) M Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, said that in the event of a "no" vote "I do not see how I could overcome the handicap of the loss of influence of France and all those who represent France in all the European institutions".

This is quite a confession, for M Delors ought not to regard a possible loss of French influence in the Community's institutions as a "handicap". As a member of the Commission he is supposed to be completely indifferent to the extent of French influence (or that of any other nation). It is well established in Community law that the members of the Commission are obliged to perform their duties in complete independence, in the general interest of the Community. This obligation forbids their being prejudiced in favour of or against particular national standpoints or interests. (Kaptein and van Themaat, Introduction to the Law of the European Communities, Deventer, 1989).

It is a telling insight into M Delors's attitude to the Community that he appears to believe otherwise. In his fit of referendum panic, the mask has slipped.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL GRENFELL,
Flat 1, 36 Edgewarebury Lane,
Edgware, Middlesex.
September 2.

From Mr Andrew Hayes

Sir, Edwin Currie suggests in her letter (September 3) that the growing antipathy to the Maastricht treaty in France reflects the unpopularity of the socialist government.

President Mitterand negotiated Maastricht and has been closely identified with it ever since. The slide in support for the treaty was occasioned by the debate in France that followed his announcement of the referendum, not by its association with an unpopular president. Indeed when the referendum was called the treaty appeared to have overwhelming support.

When will those who oppose a referendum in this country stop pretending that people faced with making a choice about how Europe should develop are too stupid to distinguish between the Maastricht treaty and a socialist president?

Yours sincerely,
A. HAYES
(Membership Co-ordinator),
The Campaign for a
British Referendum,
6 Station Road, N21.
September 3.

From Lord Vinson

Sir, A French "no" to Maastricht would certainly clear the air, but what if there is a very marginal "yes" — say 53 per cent of a 70 per cent poll? Most constitutional changes in those countries that have a constitution, hinge on a two-thirds majority.

A marginal poll would hardly be a ringing endorsement of European monetary union and certainly insufficient grounds to irrevocably commit the UK without a further mandate of a UK referendum.

Sincerely,
VINSON,
House of Lords.
September 3.

From Mr J. P. Jenkinson

Sir, In some political circles here it is said that President Mitterand expects to benefit personally by calling the referendum whatever its outcome. Either the "yes" vote prevails and he will have split the right for many years to come, or the "no" vote prevails and he will be able to quit the presidency with his head held high, as opposed to fading away at the end of the over-long presidential term.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP JENKINSON
(Chairman),
British Conservative
Association in France,
13 boulevard de la Liberté,
59040 Lille, France.

Cameras at Proms

From Mr Dennis Marks

Sir, Your correspondent, Mrs Myra Brown (letter, August 26), is mistaken. There have been at least six cameras at recorded Proms and at least seven at live ones for the past ten years. Their presence on stage or in the arena is entirely dependent on the nature of the programme and the style of the director. Their number is dictated by the need for variety and depth of coverage and the aim to communicate a real sense of involvement with the performance.

With up to a million and a half viewers for recorded Proms and over seven million for the last night, BBC Television has a duty to bring those few Proms it is able to televise to all licence-payers and not just those fortunate enough to live within easy reach of London and the Albert Hall.

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS MARKS
(Head of Music Programmes),
BBC, Kensington House,
Richmond Way, W14.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Warnings from wildlife on the move

From Mr Chris Rose

Sir, If the ecological changes noted in Michael McCarthy's recent series of articles on global warming (August 8, 13, 17, 24, 31) are not to develop from curiosities to ecological disasters, the rate and extent of climate change must be contained. We are already late in beginning.

Of particular concern is the lack of government response to signs of climate change. The globally-averaged land and ocean surface temperatures for the early 1990s continue to be very warm relative to the rest of the temperature record.

This observation is accompanied by others consistent with global warming: by snow lying for a shorter time on Arctic soils and a deeper snowpack (consistent with warmer, moister air) developing in Antarctica, by warm water episodes in the tropics associated with death of corals, by tree ring data from New Zealand, by the retreat of glaciers, by the reduction of sea ice, and by increased frequency of storms.

These findings come not from environmental groups but from the 1992 update of the scientific assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Such data can only be individual lines of evidence in the "fingerprint" formula with which the international scientific community

expects to detect unequivocally the human-made greenhouse effect: as such they are scientifically "circumstantial" but politically they are more compelling.

The recent Hurricane Andrew was another reminder. The record trend of tropical storms (which form over water exceeding 27°C) is accepted as real by many in the insurance industry (as they are already paying or passing on the bills).

The UK Meteorological Office's climate model predicts a 50 per cent increase in the number of tropical disturbances, under doubled carbon dioxide conditions (IPCC 1992), with "a general increase in storm activity in the northern hemisphere". Will storms have to level Whitehall before the government shows an interest?

Taking their cue from your reports of wildlife on the move, it is time for our scientists and civil servants to recall the old political aphorism, "It walks like a duck, quacks like a duck — I say it's a duck", and accept that global warming has arrived.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS ROSE
(Programme Director),
Greenpeace UK,
Canonbury Villas,
Islington, N1.
September 2.

Royal upheavals

From Mr F. Newton Parks

Sir, Mr James Pilditch's moving letter (August 31) on loyalty to the royal family, the country, etc., was well put. It raises, however, a provocative issue: the boundary between loyalty and the right to question and challenge existing policies and direction in any sort of institution or relationship during a crisis.

If that right were not exercised, France would remain a monarchy, the United States would be a member of the Commonwealth, and Eastern Europe would still be behind the Iron Curtain.

Yours sincerely,
F. NEWTON PARKS,
5 Grosvenor Cottages,
Off Eaton Terrace, SW1.
September 1.

From Mr Michael Morgan

Sir, So Professor Heriot (letter, August 29) fervently hopes that no British charity will accept any of the £50,000 profit *The Sun* has made from the headline recording of the Princess of Wales's alleged conversation.

This raises an interesting side issue. Suppose a brother-keeper, in a fit of benevolence, wanted to make a hefty charitable donation? Should that be refused? What if a charity received an anonymous bundle of used fivers?

Green resignation

From the Director of the Centre for the Study of Social and Political Movements

Sir, Your leading article of August 28, "Green rejoins the rainbow", suggests that the demise of the Green party is near. Perhaps, but the issue which prompted Sara Parkin's decision to stand down from the chair is just another episode in the clash of principles which has long plagued the party.

It is not at all a dispute about environmental matters but rather one about the means by which the cause of radical ecology might be advanced.

Ms Parkin is foremost among those within the party who believe the party's lack of electoral success is attributable to its lack of "professionalism". Her opponents believe that the professionalisation of politics is a major source of our ills, that the party's commitment to participatory democracy is fundamental, and that short-term environmental gains won by compromising such principles are at the cost of the party's long-term credibility as the standard-bearer of the radical ecological critique of the social, economic and political practice presently dominant in Britain.

It might be "realistic" to prevent David Icke from speaking at a fringe meeting at the party conference, on the ground that his presence would be a distraction from key policy debates, but it would also be offensive to the libertarianism that is a basic principle of most members of the party.

Your more general contention that "European green parties have tended to rise, prosper and wither within no more than a decade" is simply wrong. True, the German Greens did badly in the reunification election, but their performances in state elections in 1992 suggest that they have more than

recovered the ground lost in 1990.

In recent general elections in Belgium, Green parties established in the 1970s increased their parliamentary representation as did newer Green parties in Italy.

The French Greens may be "still on the ascendant", but their success is less novel than you suppose: ecologists were winning council seats in France in 1977, before the German Greens became established.

There is, then, no general pattern of decline in the fortunes of Green parties. Their success or failure is, like that of other political parties, determined by the vagaries of political competition, and the circumstances of political competition in Britain in 1992 are much less propitious for the Greens than they were in 1989.

But what surveys of members of the British party, founded in 1973, show is that a hard core of 5,000 or more is unlikely to be discouraged by short-term lack of electoral success.

Yours sincerely,
C. A. ROOTES, Director,
Centre for the Study of Social and Political Movements,
University of Kent
at Canterbury,
Faculty of Social Sciences,
Eliot College,
Canterbury, Kent.
August 28.

From Mr Michael Poffley

Sir, Did Sara Parkin really "stand down from the chair of the Green party's executive" (your leading article)? Surely one stands up, or gets off, or even resigns.

Yours faithfully,
M. F. POFFLEY,
Kingsley Farmhouse,
Lingfield, Surrey.
August 28.

successful economically, morally or socially, yet it is governed and led by academically successful people from schools like Rowland Brown's. Perhaps the reason for Britain's record of failure is that our ruling elite miss out on "growing up". Mr Brown's remark should be an admission of failure, not a boast of success.

Yours etc.,
EDWARD FENNELL,
20 Egbert Road,
Winchester, Hampshire.

□ The proportion of mixed schools in the last 50 of the 200 listed in the A-level league table (August 29) was 66 per cent — not 6 per cent, as printed in Dr Vyvan Howard's letter yesterday.

When stuck for a traditional song

From Mr Bruce V. Jones

Sir, There is no need to be stuck for a traditional English song (Mr Michael Howells's letter, August 31). When working on a railway construction project in Yugoslavia in 1947 my student contingent sent a team to an "international" athletic event being held in Zenica. Each team was required to demonstrate a traditional national song and dance in the main arena.

The only words and steps which we all knew were those of the hocky-cokey. Our performance was received with rapturous applause, followed by considerable instruction of assorted Balkan nationalities in the intricacies of our perceived national folk song.

A similar challenge was overcome earlier that day. On finding that we had no slogans to rank alongside those praising Stalin and Tito we marched past with clenched fists in the air expounding "Umpah, umpah, stuff it up your jumpah". Fortunately the communist dignitaries on the dais appeared to have no knowledge of English and waved their approval of our salutation.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE V. JONES,
Down Ampney House,
Down Ampney,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

From Mrs A. F. Murray-Johnson

Sir, Some years back six of us were in a restaurant in Amsterdam. Each table bore the national flag of the country represented in order that a singing contest could take place.

Despite strong competition from Germany and Italy we won the evening for Britain by singing "Lloyd George Knew My Father" which, as I am sure you know, is sung to the tune of "Onward Christian Soldiers".

Yours faithfully,
C. MURRAY-JOHNSON,
The Old Chapel, Neton,
Nr Salisbury, Wiltshire.

From Mr J. S. A. Jeffray

Sir, Never were the advantages of his article to this 1820 "divorce". The 1820 Bill of Pains and Penalties to deprive the Queen of "the title, prerogatives, rights... of Queen consort of this realm" failed, so did the divorce clause.

Queen Caroline was still King George IV's queen consort when she died the following year, three weeks after an unsuccessful bid to storm her royal spouse's coronation and banquet in Westminster Abbey and Hall.

Yours faithfully,
FLORA FRASER,
8 Flanders Mansions,
Flanders Road, W4.
August 31.

From Mr Gwynn Tudno Jones

Sir, Had Mr Howells of Pembroke-shire declared his Welsh nationality he could have entered himself to his hosts and entertained them "All Through the Night", if needs be.

Sincerely,
GWYN TUDNO JONES,
Pafin Bach, Carreg Goetan,
Trefdraeth, Dyfed.
August 31.

From Mr R. C. Burnell

Sir, As an English traditional song that avoids both environmental insensitivity and political incorrectness I suggest "Greensleeves".

Yours faithfully,
R. C. BURNELL,
1 Tasmanian Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.

From Mr Robert Green

Sir, Do Mr Howells and party not ken John Peel? Did they dilly dally on the way to Greece instead of following the van? Have they never walked barefoot across the moors above Ilkley or ridden a certain grey mare near Widdomb?

Do not the rushes (hot) grow green in Pembroke-shire? Are the meadows not mown by one man and his dog? Is Devon glorious no more? Is dear old Sussex no longer by the sea?

Yours faithfully,
R. O. GREEN,
34 High Street, Killamarsh,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

From Mrs Leslie Wood

Sir, "Ten Green Bottles" was an uproarious success on a river cruise in France. By the time we reached "five" the French were all joining in some of them were still singing it when we got off the boat.

Yours faithfully,
ELEANOR WOOD,
18a St Margaret's Road, Oxford.

From Lady Lea

Sir, The national anthem? It's a trifle unfashionable at the moment, but we used to know it.

Yours faithfully,
PAT LEA,
27 Brighton Lane,
Brighton Island, Hampshire.

From Mr J. F. Colin

Sir, Had no one in Mr Howells's party been in the Brownies, Cubs, Scouts, Girl Guides, church choir, rugby team, university bar?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN F. COLIN,
419 Unthank Road,
Norwich, Norfolk.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 4: The Princess Royal, President, Royal Yachting Association, today visited Burnham Sailing Week, Burnham-on-Crouch, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Essex (the Lord Braybrook).

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 4: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief, the Royal Corps

of Transport, today received General Derek Braggins and General John MacDonald.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
September 4: The Duke of Kent, Honorary Member of the Royal West Norfolk Golf Club, this evening attended the Centenary Dinner at Brancaster, King's Lynn, Norfolk.

Captain the Hon Tom Coke was in attendance.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Dr Allen Adams, anesthesiologist, 69; Lord Alexander of Weald, QC, 66; Mr Malcolm Allison, football manager, 65; Miss Meg Beresford, former general secretary, CND, 55; Viscount Chilton, 46; Mr Dick Clement, scriptwriter, 55; Lord Defford, 83; Mr R.J. Dunn, managing director, Thames Television, 49; Miss Tracy Edwards, yachtswoman, 30; Sir Robin Fearn, diplomat, 58; Mr David Graham, chief constable, Cheshire, 59; Dame Elizabeth Hedley-Miller, civil servant, 69; Sir Francis Lloyd, former colonial officer, 76; Mrs Doreen Massey, director, Family Planning Association, 54; Mr Bob Newhart, comedian, 63; Mr William Nursaw, author and investment consultant, 89; Canon Peter Pilkington, former high master, St Paul's School, 59; Miss Jean Rankine, deputy director, British Museum, 51; Mr G.W. Tremlett, author, 53; Sir Dennis Wilkinson, former vice-chancellor, Sussex University, 70.

TOMORROW: The Right Rev John Bicknell, former Bishop of Bath and Wells, 71; Mr Mark Birch, jockey, 43; Mr B.G. Booth, rector, University of Central Lancashire, 50; Mr Sherban Cantazano, secretary, Royal Fine Art Commission, 64; Earl Cawdor, 60; Sir Derman Christopher, former vice-chancellor, Durham University, 77; Sir Andrew Hugh Smith, chairman, London Stock Exchange, 61; Sir John Johnson, diplomat and chairman, Countryside Commission, 62; Mr Roger Law, author and puppeteer, 51; Sir Colin McColl, former diplomat, 60; Mr George Mann, former chairman, TCO, 78; Miss Monica Mason, ballerina, 51; Sir Peter Pain, former High Court judge, 79; Sir James Stubbfield, geologist, 91; Sir Anthony Wagner, former Garret King of Arms, 84; Mr J.R.C. Young, rugby player, 55.

Tomorrow's royal engagement

The Prince of Wales will attend a European promenade concert at the Albert Hall at 7.30.



Elegant setting: Marianne Forrest, clock designer, enjoying the ambience of the new restaurant in the restored Marble Hall of the Criterion complex at Piccadilly Circus, London, which reopens on September 10

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy
COMMANDER: P E Godwin - Staff of Cinclant 19.2.93.

The Army
BRIGADIER: I McLeod - to be DA/MA Pakistan 4.9.92.
A COLONEL: S C H Ashworth - to HQ BAOR/HQ BRSC 4.9.92; B A C Duncan - to be DA/MA/MA Amman 3.9.92; R F Clayton-Jones - to be Warden RA CHD Trg Cntr 1.9.92; J J Hollman - to be

Sen Chap HQ 1 (BR) Corps 1.9.92; C J Newbould - to HQ UKLF 1.9.92; E M Powell - to R Signals MRO 1.9.92; N G D Robinson - to HQ The Queens Division 1.9.92.
LIEUTENANT COLONELS: A A Beattie - to School of Inf (Warminster) HQ 1.9.92; P J Cable RA CHD - to HQ BF Cyprus 1.9.92; A D Kyner RA - to HQ DRA 3.9.92; T W Parks REME - to be CO Sch of Aero Engrs 2.9.92.

Royal Air Force
Air Vice-Marshal: T. Garden is appointed Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Programmes) in succession to Major General the Hon T. P. J. Boyd-Carpenter on 14 August 1992.
A. J. C. Bagnall is appointed Assistant Chief of the Air Staff in succession to Air Vice-Marshal Garden on 17 August 1992.
P. G. Bear is appointed Director General of Training and Personnel (RAF) on 14 September 1992.
AIR COMMANDERS: J C French - to be

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.T.J. Dawson and Miss A.L. Kingsbury
The engagement is announced between Patrick, son of Mr Timothy Dawson, of Michaelchurch Escey, Hereford, and Mrs Mary Gilling, of Berwick St James, Wiltshire, and Anna, daughter of Rev Canon Richard and Mrs Angela Kingsbury, of Cavesham, Berkshire.

Mr T.J. Gittins and Miss S.A. Conway
The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Mr and Mrs A.J. Gittins, of Heddon-on-the-Wall, and Sally, daughter of Mr and Mrs A.N. Conway, of Corbridge, Northumberland.

Mr G.F.J. Maynard and Miss M.L. Field
The engagement is announced between Gareth, elder son of Mr and Mrs E.F.G. Maynard, of Littlebourne Court, Littlebourne, Kent, and Alison, second daughter of Mr and Mrs J.E. Field, of Calverley Park, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Mr S.D. Morgan and Miss H.L.H. Goble
The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of Mr and Mrs Dennis Morgan, of Rotherham, Yorkshire, and Harriet, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Goble, of London, SW3.

Mr M.C. Orme and Miss S.C. Marsh
The engagement is announced between Mark, eldest son of Mr Charles Orme and the late Mrs L.M. Orme, of East Boston, Halwell, Devon, and Sarah, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Hugh Marsh, of The Dial House, Westmill, Buntingford, Hertfordshire.

Mr J.E. Shearn and Miss J.C. Biggs
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr Neville Shearn and the late Mrs Clarys Shearn, of Huddersfield, and Julia, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Biggs, of Keston, Kent.

Mr J.A. Tarr and Miss J.K. Rae
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Paul Tarr, of Sheffield, and Joanna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Douglas K. Rae, of Sheffield.

Mr R. Titley and Miss A.L. Long
The engagement is announced between Robert, elder son of Mr and Mrs Augustus Titley, of Beckenham, Kent, and Annabel, elder daughter of Mrs K.M. Long and the late Mr D. Long, of St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex.

Mr P.J. White and Miss J.G.V. Roskill
The engagement is announced between Peter, elder son of John and Marjorie White, of Laureash, Cornwall, and Jessica, daughter of John and the late Pamela Roskill, of Newquay, Hampshire.
Mr M.C. Wadsworth and Miss C.P. Handley
The engagement is announced between Michael, elder son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs J.M. Wadsworth, of Higher Melcombe, Dorset, and Claire Patricia, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs William Handley, of Kyrcoft, Eversley, Hampshire.

Group Captain Lord Cheshire, VC

A Mass of Thanksgiving for the Life of Group Captain Lord Cheshire, VC, DSO, DFC, will be held in Westminster Cathedral at noon on Friday, September 2, 1992. If associated with Cheshire Homes, please apply for tickets, in writing only, to the Leonard Cheshire Foundation, 29 Mansel Street, London, SW1P 2QN; otherwise, please apply, in writing only, to Sue Ryder Foundation, Cavendish, Suffolk, CO10 8AY.

Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8.30 A.M. Mass of the Word. 10.30 A.M. Mass of the Word. 12.30 P.M. Mass of the Word. 3.30 P.M. Mass of the Word. 7.30 P.M. Mass of the Word. 9.30 P.M. Mass of the Word.

ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWN: 11.50 A.M. Mass of the Word. 1.30 P.M. Mass of the Word. 3.30 P.M. Mass of the Word. 7.30 P.M. Mass of the Word. 9.30 P.M. Mass of the Word.

ST MARK'S, PRINCE OF WALES: 8.30 A.M. Mass of the Word. 10.30 A.M. Mass of the Word. 12.30 P.M. Mass of the Word. 3.30 P.M. Mass of the Word. 7.30 P.M. Mass of the Word. 9.30 P.M. Mass of the Word.

ST GEORGE'S, BLOOMSBURY: 8.30 A.M. Mass of the Word. 10.30 A.M. Mass of the Word. 12.30 P.M. Mass of the Word. 3.30 P.M. Mass of the Word. 7.30 P.M. Mass of the Word. 9.30 P.M. Mass of the Word.

Scottish botanists feel at home in a lost world

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A SCIENTIFIC expedition to a "lost world" in the highlands of Indonesian New Guinea hopes to bring back new species of plant for cultivation in Scotland.

Five staff members of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh are to join the first expedition to be given permission to visit the Bani valley of Irian Jaya for 30 years. The valley was only discovered in 1938 and is inhabited by the Dani tribespeople, whose life has been unchanged for 1,500 years.

They wear few clothes, have a diet based on cultivation of the sweet potato, and have never ventured outside their valley, which can be reached only by air.

Dr Ian Edwards, of the Edinburgh Botanic Gardens, who made a preparatory visit to the valley last year, says: "It's an extraordinary experience to get off an aeroplane and be confronted by a man who is totally naked except for a penis gourd."

The women, he says, are naked to the waist, but do wear grass skirts. They consider it indecent to expose their backs, so they cover them with string bags which they use for carrying sweet potatoes or babies.

The climate will come as no surprise to the botanic garden staff, George Argent, Maureen Warwick, Mary Mendum, David Mitchell, and Paul Smith, as it has distinct similarities with their homeland. Although only five degrees south of the equator, the valley is high and prone to damp and misty days when the sun never shines.

Then the prudent Dani stay inside their houses, which are built with a double thickness of wooden wall and a deep thatch.

Crouched around the fire, they defy the persistent drizzle outside; save for their nakedness, it could pass for a typical August bank holiday in Dunoon. There are even midges to make the party feel at home.

The expedition hopes to

gather new information about this unique place before the tide of tourism reaches it. Already there is a 12-bed hotel, ominously called the Hotel Trendy, in the valley's only town, Wamena.

Dr Edwards says that he was the first person to stay there. He expects tourism to develop: "Indonesia is opening up. In five years, this ancient culture won't exist any more."

The botanists and horticulturalists from Edinburgh intend to study the range of plants flourishing in the valley, including heathers, orchids and rhododendrons.

They will study environmental conditions in the hope of reproducing them in Indonesian botanic gardens, and back home in Edinburgh.

"I shall be surprised if new things aren't found," Dr

Edwards says. "There are several hundred species of rhododendron in the wild, but only a handful of them are in cultivation."

He says that the Dani's local knowledge will be vital to the plant-gatherers; a people that have survived successfully for so long on plants alone have learned a lot about them.

One experience the visitors should not miss is sleeping in a Dani house, he says. At night the tribespeople climb into a kind of loft, men and women in separate groups, and sleep squashed tightly together as the smoke from the fire drifts upwards.

Dr Edwards suggests this is rather like being kippered, and he suspects it explains why bronchial complaints are extremely common in the valley.

Marriages

Dr W.A. Beck and Miss L. Trueman
The marriage took place at Taunton, Somerset, on Thursday, August 6, 1992, between Dr Alexander Beck and Miss Ingrid Trueman.

Mr J.T.B. Mayer and Miss F. Saeed Cocker
The marriage took place on September 2, in Oxford, between Mr J.T.B. Mayer, of London, and the Maharajkumari Jyotsna devi Devi of Burdwan, and Farnham, daughter of the Hon Justice and Mrs S.R. Cocker, of Nairobi.

Mr D.C. O'Meara and Miss M.M. Lupton
The marriage took place on August 22, 1992, at St Theresa's

Church, Charlton, Nevis, West Indies, between Mr David O'Meara, son of Mr and Mrs John O'Meara, and Miss Margaret Lupton, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Lupton.

Church news
The Rev Allan Wayne, Vicar, Stroud with Clayville (Lichfield); retired on August 17.

Church of Scotland
Translations
The Rev David Anderson from Aberdeen to Northfield, Aberdeen.

The Rev David J. R. Cameron, Associate from St Andrew's, Inverurie to St Martin's, Edinburgh.

Church of Our Lady, Lissong Grove
St John's Wood, 1045 Victoria Road, London, NW10 7JL. Mass: 8.30 A.M. (Latin), 10.30 A.M. (English), 7.30 P.M. (English).

CHURCH OF OUR MOST HOLY REDIRECTOR, CHURCH ROAD, WIMBORNE
Wimborne, Dorset. Mass: 8.30 A.M. (Latin), 10.30 A.M. (English), 7.30 P.M. (English).

CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN, ST. MARTIN'S, ST. MARTIN'S, ST. MARTIN'S
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

ROBINSON-SWAIN - On 5th September 1942 at St. James' Church, London, the Rev. Canon Robinson-Swain, 100 years.

TARRANT-LUNN - On 5th September 1942 at St. James' Church, London, the Rev. Canon Tarrant-Lunn, 100 years.

DEATHS
On September 1st 1992, suddenly and without warning, John Robinson, aged 77 years, of Fawcett, Kent, died.

BONVALOT - On Tuesday August 25th 1992 aged 96 years, Alfred Bonvalot, peacefully at the Beauport Nursing Home, Jersey, C.I. Bonvalot, a son of the late Mr and Mrs Alfred Bonvalot.

DEATHS
On September 3rd, 1992, at home, William, a son of the late Mr and Mrs William, died.

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MEMORIAL SERVICES

HARVEY - There will be a service of remembrance for the late Diana Harvey on October 3rd at 3pm, Remembrance.

TRUSTEE ACTS
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to 27 of the TRUSTEE ACT 1925 that any person having a claim against or on the estate of the deceased or any interest in the estate of the deceased is required to submit a statement in writing of the claim or interest to the executor or administrator of the estate of the deceased.

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OBITUARIES

SIR MAYNARD JENOUR

Sir (Arthur) Maynard (Chesterfield) Jenour, TD, JP, former head of the Aberthaw and Bristol Channel Portland Cement company, died on September 1 aged 87. He was born on January 7, 1905.

MAYNARD Jenour once fagged at Eton for an American who kept shouting out for "Charlie" when the young Maynard was required. The fag was to become one of the most prominent industrialists and public figures in South Wales, a vice-lord lieutenant and high sheriff of his county. But close friends always knew him by his Eton sobriquet. Only when he was knighted by Harold Macmillan in 1959, after serving as treasurer of the Conservative Party in Wales, was he dubbed with the rather more dignified nickname of "Charles".

The least pretentious of men, he was born in Plymouth, the son of a brigadier from Cape Town. But his mother was a member of the Beynon family, who were coal mine owners and shipping agents in South Wales. At one time they were sole agents for 12 collieries, exporting 7 million tons of coal through the South Wales docks each year.

The Jenour household settled in Chepstow and in 1924, one year after leaving Eton, Maynard joined his uncle, Sir John Beynon, Bt, one time high sheriff of the County of London, in the business.

His own career took on an individual shape, however, in 1929, following the board's decision to enter the cement industry. He became, first, a director of the Aberthaw and Bristol Channel Portland Cement company, then its chairman and joint managing

director in 1946 until nine years ago — when the firm was taken over by Blue Circle.

He joined the Royal Artillery in the second world war, serving as second-in-command of a heavy gun regiment in this country before being posted to the Middle East headquarters staff in Cairo. He remained there from 1943 until 1946 when he was demobilised.

He also became chairman and managing director of the parent company, T. Beynon and Co, after the war, while other directorships he held included those of Ruthin Quarries (Bridgend) and Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers.

Maynard Jenour was much involved in the life of Wales. He served as high sheriff of Monmouthshire 1951-52, was made a deputy lieutenant in 1960, vice-lieutenant in 1965 and then, from 1974 until 1979, vice-lord lieutenant of the new county of Gwent. He was president of Cardiff Chamber of Commerce 1953-54, chairman of Wales and Monmouthshire Industrial Estates 1954-60, a board member (and subsequently vice-president) of the Development Corporation for Wales, chairman of the Resettlement Committee for Wales and president of the Welsh Boys' Clubs Association. For 17 years he was the president of Cardiff County Club.

He was a governor of the National Museum of Wales and of Christ College, Brecon, and served on a number of committees of the Church in Wales and the Conservative party. In 1958 he had been deputy organising chairman of the Commonwealth Games in Cardiff. An enthusiastic freemason, he was junior warden of the Grand Lodge of England.

Jenour was an accomplished sportsman. He had boxed for Eton, was a fine hockey player and an even better cricketer who had played for Monmouthshire. He was also a gifted after-dinner speaker.

He is survived by his Australian-born wife Margot, whom he married when she was a young widow in 1948, and by three stepdaughters whom he brought up as his own. Four times he turned down invitations to stand for parliament, on the grounds that he wished to spend more of his time, not less of it, with his family.



Derrick Amore, BBC television director and executive, died in London on September 2 from cancer aged 57. He was born on March 7, 1935.

AN ENCOUNTER with Derrick Amore in the corridors of Lime Grove during the late 1960s suggested that the Wild West had inspired the dress of the new frontiers of television journalism. He was likely to be wearing a leather jacket and cowboy boots and sometimes carried a gun, not a '45 but just an air pistol for target practice on the roof.

Amore was one of the brightest stars of the young and rapidly expanding television service of the BBC. Those were the days when a spectacular number of firsts were achieved by the Corporation, especially in the news area. The nation gathered round the television set in the early evening to watch the magazine programme *Tonight*. They were attracted by a content which, almost without fail, was varied, highly entertaining and totally unpredictable. The items on it would be the topics for discussion in the pub later and in the offices and factories the next day.

It was to *Tonight* that Derrick Amore came as a research assistant in 1959. He quickly became one of the Goldie Boys, handpicked by the redoubtable Grace Wyndham Goldie, head of current affairs, who had such figures as Paul Fox, David

Attenborough and Huw Wheldon as her able lieutenants. They formed the group who became the creators of British television feature journalism. On *Tonight* experienced reporters such as Fyfe Robertson and Alan Whicker, several of whom had won their spurs on *Picture Post*, worked with young directors such as Donald Baverstock, Michael Peacock and in due course Derrick Amore. Under the inspired leadership of Grace Goldie a new brand of television programme had been hatched: *Tonight*, *Panorama*, *24 Hours*, *Nationwide*.

Amore's exceptional intelligence and speed of thought had never been in doubt. It was evident when he was school at KCS, Wimbledon, and was spotted by a young English master, Frank Miles, who encouraged Derrick, who grew up in a very modest suburban family, to become a "Leavisite" in his mid teens and work for a scholarship at Leavis's college, Downing, at Cambridge. At Downing he went on to read English at F. R. Leavis's feet and collect his expected first. He also had time to enjoy himself and write for *Granta*.

However, he was not cut out to be an academic. That life would surely have bored him. He was an intellectual, exceptionally well read, but he was also streetwise in a way that showed in his slightly ferreted features. At school he had been too sharp for several of those who taught him. So after

BARBARA McCLINTOCK

Barbara McClintock, one of the most influential geneticists of this century, who won a Nobel Prize in 1983 for her discovery of the "jumping gene," died in hospital on Long Island, New York, on September 2 aged 90. She was born on June 16, 1902, in Hartford, Connecticut.

THERE was never a scientist quite like Barbara McClintock. She lived and worked alone, never gave lectures, delayed publication of her most revolutionary observations for many years, and did not even possess a telephone until 1986. Anyone who wanted to talk to her, said McClintock, could write a letter.

For more than half a century, almost until her death, she followed her own course at Long Island's Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, where the director is Dr James Watson, co-discoverer of the structure of DNA. In a tribute to McClintock, Watson described her as one of the three most important figures in the whole history of genetics, linking her name with those of Gregor Mendel and Thomas Hunt Morgan.

McClintock's ruling passion was the genetic construction of maize, so much so that she spent her entire professional lifetime studying that one plant. She used the tell-tale patterns of the coloured kernels to disclose the breaking, joining and re-arranging of genes and chromosomes inside the cells.

Because the pigments of the kernels are inherited, McClintock was able to use them to trace the genes. In this way, using her uncanny ability to understand the nature of genes and how they interact, McClintock made important discoveries about the role of chromosomes in heredity.

In the 1930s she discovered the fact that chromosomes break and recombine to create genetic changes in a process known as "crossing over", which explained puzzling patterns of inheritance. She also discovered a structure called the nucleolar organiser of the chromosome, which seemed to control the genetic material during cell division. It was to be three decades before molecular biologists could explain and confirm the finding.

Much of McClintock's early work was done at Cornell University's College of Agr-



culture, where she began to study as an undergraduate in 1919. Her bent towards science, which had begun in high school, had been strongly reinforced by her mother who feared that her daughter was failing to develop "appropriate feminine behaviour". But McClintock's persistence won in the end, and by her junior year she was already taking graduate courses in biology.

In her first year of graduate school, McClintock found that she could identify individual maize chromosomes under the microscope — a discovery that opened the door to the integration of plant-breeding experiments with chromosomal analysis. She gained her PhD from Cornell in 1927, published a series of radical research papers and soon became recognised as one of the leading scientists in her field.

But despite a two-year fellowship from the National Research Council and the subsequent award of a Guggenheim fellowship in 1933, McClintock was soon to discover that the avenues of professional advancement available to women were severely limited. Cornell refused to give her a faculty position, and she became increasingly irritated by the

the chromosome were not fixed.

The discovery of transposable elements had far-reaching implications for the understanding of cell differentiation in the growth and development of an organism, and was at total odds with scientific theory at the time. Most scientists then believed that genes were immovable beads on a string, and when McClintock presented her findings at a Cold Harbor symposium in the summer of 1951 virtually no one understood the significance and implications of her work.

Although she had been elected president of the Genetics Society of America and was listed among the top 1,000 scientists in the United States, McClintock found herself laughed out of court. "They called me crazy, absolutely mad at times," she recalled later. Disappointed by the reception of her papers, she stopped publishing the results of her experiments, though she continued her research.

Vindication finally came in the 1970s, when a series of experiments by molecular biologists proved that pieces of bacterial DNA did indeed "jump around" on the chromosomes.

Suddenly, McClintock found herself recognised as a scientific visionary and was showered with awards from every quarter. In 1981 she became the first recipient of the MacArthur Laureate Award, giving her a lifetime income of \$60,000 a year, and in 1983 her Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine made her the first woman to receive an unshared Nobel Prize in that category.

When asked by a reporter if she was bitter about the long years of neglect, Barbara McClintock replied: "If you know you're right, you don't care. You know that sooner or later it will come out in the wash."

Reviewing *The Dynamic Genome: Barbara McClintock's Ideas in the Century of Genetics*, a book published to celebrate her 90th birthday, J. R. S. Fincham, said in the August 20 edition of the science magazine *Nature*: "Her solitary style of work, total independence of thought, and extraordinary record of getting things right, have elevated her to the status of a prophet in the eyes of some."

She never married, and is survived by one sister and one brother. Observing successive generations of maize, she noticed colour changes in the leaves and kernels of some plants that failed to follow a predictable hereditary pattern. When she compared the variant specimens with their parent plants under the microscope, she found that parts of the chromosomes had changed position. She eventually concluded, after six years of painstaking research, that the genes were being manipulated by genetic "controlling elements," whose locations on

pled with an ability to identify talent both in front of the cameras and behind them. He never patronised people, nor would he allow his producers or presenters to do so. His view, often expressed, was that there was no such thing as a bad item, there was only a badly-made item.

Inevitably and wrongly Derrick Amore was drawn into management. He did not enjoy it and was often manifestly bored by administration. But he managed to get back to making programmes. He was the creator of *Nationwide*, the natural successor of *Tonight*, which successfully developed popular feature journalism. It delighted much of the nation and the Controller of the BBC, then Paul Fox, but embarrassed some of the Corporation's hierarchy who found it hard to accept such popularity masquerading under the "current affairs" label.

From *Nationwide* he went on to run BBC Television News for five years, where he won the support of his staff despite the fact that he did not come from a strictly news background. In turn he gave his support to them, especially when under fierce attack from one political quarter or another. Loyalty was one of his great qualities.

Later, loyalty was to be important to him. Derrick Amore was easily bored and when bored he often turned to alcohol. Because of personal indiscretions he was moved out of his editorial chair and back to production. And so he never achieved what had been expected of him in those earlier high-flying days. He ended his career at Radio London, where as manager he encouraged others to use the talents with which he had been so liberally endowed.

He was, as a private person, a delightful companion, lively, intelligent, well read, fond of music and was a regular attendee at opera first nights in London. He was ever eager to apply a sharp mind to the issues of the day. He had a great sense of humour and, surrounded by the inevitable billowing clouds of cigarette smoke, an engaging raconteur when the mood took him. But darker moods all too often enveloped him in his final years. He separated from his wife and family, becoming almost reclusive, declining both invitations and visits apart from those of a few close female friends. But when cancer of the mouth was diagnosed there was, happily, a rapprochement. In his last illness he had the help and support of all his family.

Derrick Amore will be remembered as one of the most inventive and successful television editors of his generation, who was responsible for encouraging others to aspire to the excellence in their craft that he himself had achieved. He was a natural questioner and rebel, challenging views that had been too easily received and accepted. He was acerbic but with a gentle side that close friends and colleagues were privileged to see.

APPRECIATIONS

The Right Rev Anthony Tremlett

YOUR obituary of Bishop Tremlett (August 28) makes, rightly, much of his fostering of vocations. I was an ordinand who, at the time it seemed, he would rather have done without.

He was joint director of ordinands in the Canterbury diocese when I was passed to him for a second opinion. I was forty and married with six children.

"My dear boy," he said. "It's bad enough for an ordinand to be married, but six children — that's positively indecent. I mean, where are we going to put you to live?"

The then Archbishop, Michael Ramsey, favoured the first opinion, and I was duly ordained, whereupon we quickly produced another child.

Meeting Tony Tremlett some time later, he confided to me that he had tried to thwart me whenever he could. "But," he added, "you have defeated me at every turn and I'm delighted. I dine out on you and all your children at least twice a month."

Such was both his humour and his generosity of spirit. He knew, too, that there is more than one way to inspire and test a vocation.

The Rev John Hawthorne

FURTHER to your excellent obituary of the Right Rev Anthony Tremlett may I, one of Tony's pre-war friends at King's, Cambridge (and a Coldstreamer from 1940), place on record one wartime friendship, which was second to none in Tony's affection and esteem — the one he made with his driver/batman — and which lasted until



Tony's recent death. Bernard ("Jock") Wright, a pre-war regular soldier from the RHA served with Tony for almost all Tony's five years of war service as a chaplain. They became, and always remained, the closest of friends.

When Jock was demobilised in March 1946, Tony, whose father had been a manager in Drummond's bank, found him a job as resident caretaker at the bank's branch at 12, Whitehall.

For the next 30 years, until Jock and his wife Peggy retired to Norfolk, their London flat was Tony's London base. When Tony retired to the Cotswolds in 1980, his home at Doctors Commons in Northleach was one where they were regular and welcome guests (indeed, they had expected to be there later this month).

Tony's many friends, especially Anne Green, his devoted housekeeper, will greatly miss his invariable generosity, his deep compassion and sympathy, his sense of fun, his good counsel and his sterling Christian faith and example. As Jock himself puts it, "Tony was a wonderful man."

T. D. Vickers

John Marsh

IN YOUR obituary to John Marsh (25 August) you recorded amongst his activities that "he was at various times honorary administrator of the Duke of Edinburgh's Study Conference". This possibly underestimates his enormous contribution to these continuing Commonwealth-wide experiences, bringing together representatives of management, trade unions, government and society at large.

Sir Harold Hartley, chairman of the 1956 conference council, recorded in 1952 that John had had a brainwave — the possibility of holding a Commonwealth and Empire conference on some of the human problems of industry. Sir Harold had put the idea to

the Duke of Edinburgh, the patron of the society, who, after taking advice, agreed to sponsor it. Since then there have been seven conferences attended by many hundreds of leaders — real and potential — from throughout the Commonwealth.

One of John's final public appearances was at the opening of the last Conference in Oxford on July 10. Already terminally ill, he told me afterwards that the generous acknowledgment he received there made the day one of the happiest in his life.

As a member of the 1963 Canadian Conference, I know that John Marsh's idea and life was an inspiration to thousands of people.

Dr Paul W. Glover

Arthur Davison

THE death of Arthur Davison (obituary, August 25) leaves the cultural life of Britain bereft of one of its most able and generous musicians. I knew him over many decades as leading violinist and con-

ductor, and never did he fail to respond to the needs of younger musicians or to offer his orchestra to accompany the young instrumentalists of my school. I know that we shall all miss him deeply.

Sir Yehudi Menuhin

SEPT 5 ON THIS DAY 1944

Two great cities of north-west Europe were liberated within 24 hours of each other, Brussels by the Guards and Antwerp by the 11th Armoured Divisions. The speed of the advance, six days from the River Seine, heightened the level of excitement, but "hard pounding" lay behind and ahead.

JOY IN BELGIAN CAPITAL

From Our Special Correspondent, Brussels, Sept 4 After a fast drive from Arras I have just reached Brussels, with a colleague, 24 hours after the British liberating force. The city is still in a ferment of delight and relief.

Our last three miles, through the suburbs, took us along an almost continuous lane of waving and cheering people, with a thousand flags and banners in the vivid black, yellow and red of the Belgian national colours. In the Place de Broekere the crowd finally stopped the car, and out we had to get, to be slapped on the back, shaken by both hands, and even kissed by excited women, many of whom wore astonishing collections of dress in the national colours.

As we stood among them there came nosing slowly along a troop of our armoured cars, which had been the first to enter the city yesterday. The cars were filled and festooned with flowers, and the men in them had flowers in their black berets and black, yellow, and red favours on their travel-stained uniforms. In our khaki we were taken for soldiers and men and women kept on asking us how they had waited four long years for us and now hoped that we would stay.

From a window overlooking the wide place I can see them doing this all over again as every dusty British car, truck, or jeep comes along. A terrific loud-speaker has been turned on and is leading mass singing of

songs of the last great war and this one, including, quite boldly now, "When we hang out the washing on the Siegfried line," and even the hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers." At intervals there are records of the sounding of the British Army's Last Post.

All this seems excitement enough: what will happen when the Belgian contingent that we passed on the road reaches the capital can be imagined.

When they reached Brussels yesterday the leading elements of our armoured columns had covered nearly 200 miles from the Vernon bridgehead over the Seine from the time that they broke out of it on August 29. It is known that the German commander of the Somme area, General Wiro, has been taken prisoner. His capture follows closely that of the taking of General Eberbach, commander of the shattered Seventh Army.

British troops took Antwerp in their stride yesterday, driving through to cross the frontier into Holland. Allied fighters and fighter bombers operating between Meuse and Brussels on Sunday reported the "biggest traffic jam in history." German vehicles jammed the road so tightly that pursuing American tanks caught up with them, and allied and enemy were intermingled in wheel-to-wheel combat. The allied aircraft had to suspend their attacks for fear of bombing our own troops, and they flew around looking for batches of all-enemy vehicles to snare.

Before the motorized armies became entangled the allied aircraft flew to and fro above the chaotic enemy columns bombing and strafing, and set up a new record of destruction. More than 900 German trucks, 750 horse-drawn vehicles, and 50 armoured vehicles were destroyed. There were no details available about the capture of Antwerp, but a British armoured column yesterday went through Boom, a town eight miles south-west of Antwerp and 15 miles north of Brussels, and another column drove to Malines, which the Germans destroyed in 1914.

Farrer & Co ponder divorce

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

WITH what some will call an impeccable sense of timing, the solicitors to the Royal Family, Farrer & Co., are publishing a step-by-step guide to divorce.

The idea of *The Divorce Handbook*, written by one of Farrer's top matrimonial lawyers, Fiona Shackleton, with a journalist Olivia Timbs, is to provide a simple manual for people picking their way through the legal and financial minefields of dissolving a marriage.

However the book, which comes out next week, also contains two clear messages to warring couples: divorce only if absolutely necessary; and shop around for a good solicitor who will minimize bitterness.

The book encourages people to grill solicitors about their fees and their experience; to visit firms until they find a solicitor they like and obtain an estimate of the likely cost. Ms Shackleton, 36, who is likely to advise the Duke of

York in any negotiations with his wife, said: "People are intimidated about asking what a solicitor will charge; they tend to brush it under the mat. They are probably perplexed, shell-shocked, and not been in the situation before. But most people would not dream of buying a new dress without trying several on and asking what colours it comes in."

The Divorce Handbook, Farrer & Co and Thorsons, £6.99.

Anniversaries

Today BIRTHS: Louis XIV, king of France 1643-1715; Saint Germain-en-Laye 1638; Johann Christian Bach, composer, Leipzig, 1735; Robert Ferguson, poet, Edinburgh, 1750; Giacomo Meyerbeer, composer, Tasdorf, Germany, 1791; John Widen, cricketer and founder of the cricket annual bearing his name, Brighton, 1826; Victorien Sardou, dramatist, Paris, 1831; Arthur Koestler, novelist and critic, Budapest, 1905.

DEATHS: John Home, dramatist, Edinburgh, 1808; Auguste Comte, philosopher, founder of Positivism, Paris, 1857; Charles Pigou, poet, Vallery, France, 1914; Sir Douglas Sader, fighter pilot, 1982.

The first American Congress met in Philadelphia, 1774. William McKinley, 25th president of the USA 1897-1901, was shot in Buffalo, New York and died on September 14, 1901. Arab terrorists killed 11 Israelis at the Olympic Games, Munich, 1972.

Tomorrow BIRTHS: Marie-Joseph, Marquis de Lafayette, statesman and soldier, Chavagnac, France, 1757; John Dalton, chemist and physicist, Eaglesfield, Cumbria, 1766; Sir Walford Davies, composer, Oswestry, Shropshire, 1869; John James Macleod, physiologist, pio-

neer of insulin, Nobel laureate 1923, New Clinic, Toronto, 1876; Sir Edward Appleton, physicist, Nobel laureate 1947, Bradford, 1892.

DEATHS: James II, reigned 1685-88, St Germain, France, 1701; George Alexander Stevens, dramatist, song writer, Baldock, Hertfordshire, 1784; Gertrude Lawrence, actress, New York, 1952; Hendrik Verwoerd, president of South Africa 1958-66, assassinated, Cape Town, 1966. A British force occupied the Cape of Good Hope, 1795. The first cricket Test match in England, against Australia at the Oval, 1880.

WEEKEND MONEY

Profile

Tim Waterstone is given to bouts of extreme frankness, although the subjects of his indiscretions do not always agree with his conclusions. The man who will next year collect at least £9 million from the sale of his eponymous bookshop chain to WH Smith claims money is of no importance to him, but making profits is vital. Page 19



Bonus blow

Employees who are members of Save-As-You-Earn schemes are facing the prospect of bonus rate cuts. From next month, they will be reduced from 15 to 12.5 times monthly contributions. Page 21

Alarm alert

Burglar alarms may help householders ameliorate the effects of another punishing rise in contents premiums after a 50 per cent increase in theft claims during the last quarter. Page 23

We share your interest, madam.



Letters Page 24

Split returns

Investors in split capital investment trusts are likely to find that the returns on their shares are much less than they were led to expect when they bought them. Christoph Horvay, of Fleming Investment Trust Management, will explain the reasons at the agm of the group's high income trust on Wednesday next week. He is also trying to improve understanding of a difficult subject in a three monthly report to shareholders in the group's various trusts. Page 23

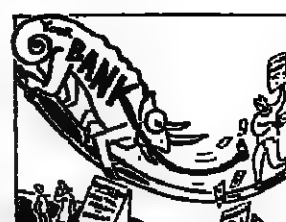


Dash for dollar

The rush to invest in dollar-denominated funds is now on by gamblers and people planning holidays in the United States, as investors continue to receive nearly \$2 to the pound. Page 23

Conversion

Members of SAYE schemes can earn much better returns on their investments if they choose to convert their share options at the end of the term, rather than opt to take the cash. Page 21



Charges hold up

The appalling public image of high street banks appears to be holding up plans to reinstate bank charges for customers whose accounts remain obstinately in the black. Page 22

US interest rate cut limits pound recovery

By GEORGE SIVELL AND WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

STERLING suffered further uncertainty on the eve of the informal gathering of European finance ministers in Bath, after America was forced to make a slight cut in interest rates last night on further signs of economic weakness.

American institutions do not formally announce cuts in the federal funds rate but New York economists said the Federal Reserve Board had pumped money into the banking system to bring down the rate from 3.25 to 3 per cent, its lowest since June 1963. The move followed a fall in American employment figures.

Source gathering at Bath indicated there was no "grand plan" to ease tensions in the European exchange-rate mechanism in the event of a "no" vote in the French referendum on the Maastricht treaty on September 20.

After holding up well in the morning at about DM2.82, sterling fell against the mark on the decline in American employment for August, against an expected rise. This left the pound up 0.42 pence against the mark, to reach DM2.8017 at the official Bank of England close.

After the London close, New York economists noticed that the Federal Reserve Board had pumped money into the American banking system to influence the federal funds money market rates. These in turn set the overnight money market rate and influence other interest rates throughout the American banking system.

"This is a very clear-cut, decisive sign that the Federal Reserve is now targeting the federal funds rate at 3 per cent

in response to this destructive employment report," said Allen Sinai, an economist at the Boston Economic Advisers.

At midday in New York, the pound had dipped below DM2.80 and was trading at DM2.7994. The dollar, meanwhile, had dropped to DM1.4030.

The drama followed a surprise fall in American non-farm employment of 83,000 against an average of independent forecasts of a rise of 183,000. This figure was so gloomy that the dollar dropped to DM1.4000 from DM1.4355 on the announcement.

The American currency had enjoyed a morning of strength after the British decision on Thursday to borrow 10 billion euros of foreign currency and repay it in sterling had weakened the international attractiveness of the mark.

The fall in August non-farm employment was accompanied by the revision of July employment, from a rise of 198,000 to an increase of 177,000.

Further tensions in the European exchange-rate mechanism surfaced. The Italians were forced to raise discount rates by 1.75 points to 15 per cent. The Bank of Italy rate for emergency financing of the banking system was lifted by 1.75 points to 16.5 per cent after the lira reached its floor of 765.40 against the mark.

Such volatility took the steam out of the London stock market rally. The FT-SE 100 index, however, closed only 19.7 points lower at 2,362.2

on the day but 12 points up on the two-week account, which has spanned a period of nervousness over the pound and the British economy.

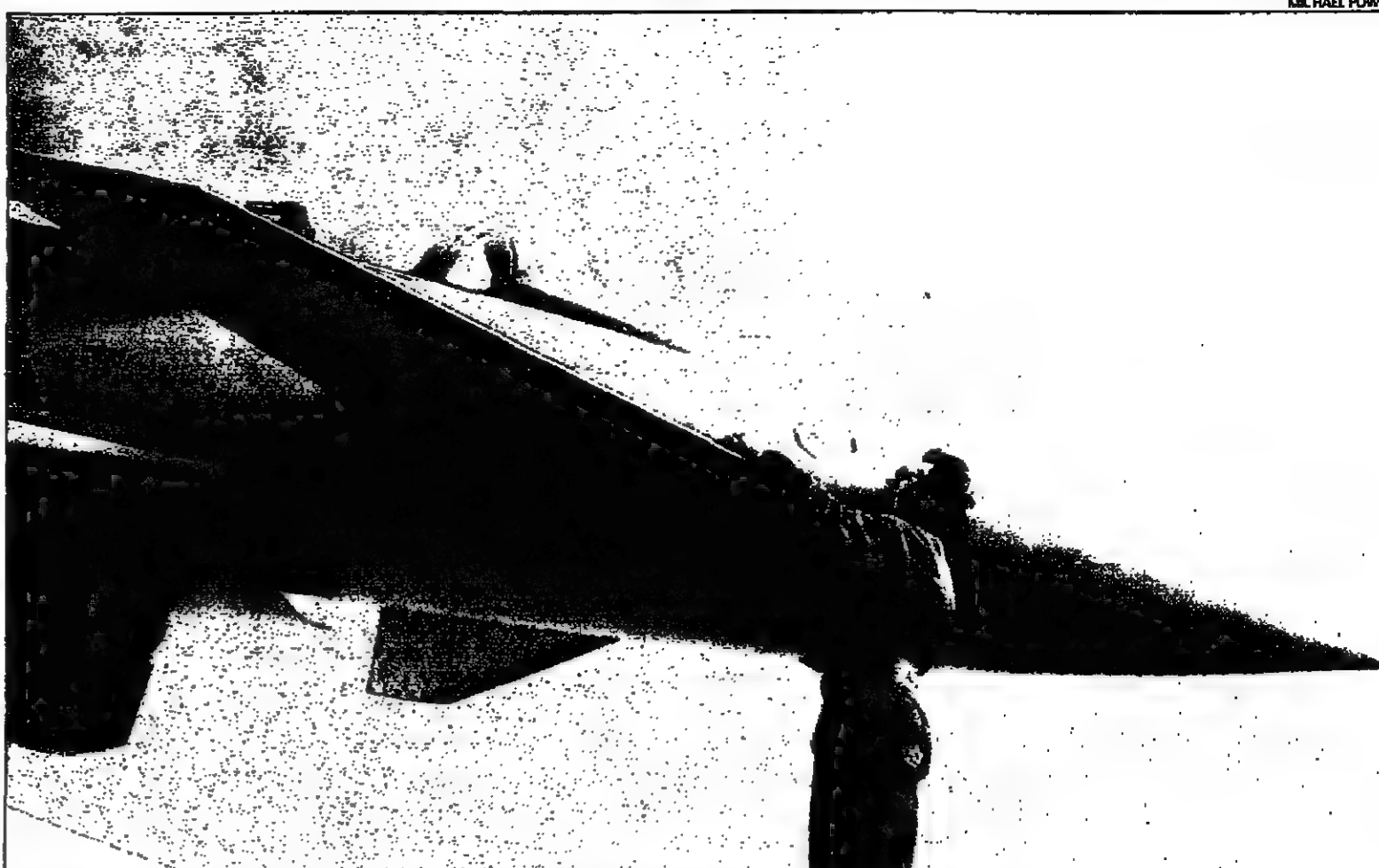
Further signs of American economic weakness are disturbing and give another jolt to President Bush's re-election hopes. On yesterday's employment figures, the jobless rate dipped in August to 7.6 from 7.7 per cent the month before. The job losses would have been even worse without an emergency plan that created 100,000 temporary summer jobs for young people.

The temporary summer jobs programme expires this month. Economists said its end, combined with Hurricane Andrew and layoffs at General Motors caused by a strike, will probably force unemployment to 7.8 per cent or higher by election day on November 3.

The August employment report is the government's first measure of economic conditions for last month. It confirms other pointers, such as near-stagnant in the index of leading indicators and the second consecutive monthly fall in housing starts. New home sales are down, weekly earnings after adjusting for inflation are down, car sales are flat and consumer confidence is falling.

Analysts believe Mr Bush will attempt to stimulate growth in the next few months. But they see little scope for quickly reviving the stalled American economy.

Leading article, page 13
Stock market report, page 20



Sharp end: Chris Hall, an engineer at the Farnborough air show, polishes a display model of the controversial European Fighter Aircraft. The show, which starts tomorrow and continues for a week, will see an unprecedented number of aircraft from the former eastern bloc, as makers struggle to find new markets. A Russian design bureau is bidding to supply 130 attack helicopters for the British army. Page 18

BA ready to buy stake in French airline

BRITISH Airways' plans to create a regional air network within Europe could make a step closer next month through a stake in TAT, the fast-expanding French airline.

TAT (Transport Aérien Trans-européen) yesterday confirmed that it is at an advanced stage of negotiation with BA to sell up to 49 per cent of its equity.

BA refused to comment, but any deal would open up dozens of routes throughout France and other European countries as well as enabling passengers to be "fed" on to long-haul BA flights.

Although the talks are now concentrating on the legal and financial details and could come to fruition within weeks, BA is unlikely to agree to a further capital investment unless it is convinced it has secured a good bargain and can afford any investment from its funds without having to raise additional capital.

TAT, which operates a number of routes from Gatwick, had a turnover of more than £240 million and net profit of £4 million in 1991. TAT is seeking a partner to enable it to expand beyond its domestic French market.

The airline had also talked to American Airlines, United Airlines, All Nippon Airways and other Pacific carriers but would prefer a European Community partner to skirt any problems with EC and French authorities.

Michel Marchais, TAT's chairman, owns 72 per cent of the airline and Credit National has 25 per cent.

Isosceles chief takes 56% cut in pay

By JON ASHWORTH

THE chief executive of Isosceles took a massive pay cut last year as the company, which owns the Gateway supermarket chain, struggled to renegotiate debts of £1.4 billion with its bankers.

Alistair Mitchell-Smith saw his pay package reduced from £323,000 to £142,000, according to the latest financial report and accounts. More than 4,200 staff were laid off at a cost of £5.2 million, and a further £1.9 million was paid in compensation to directors for loss of office. Isosceles, a

management vehicle which purchased Gateway in a highly leveraged buyout in 1989, reached agreement with its bankers this week over a refinancing that will enable it to continue its development programme.

Yesterday, the group unveiled pre-tax profits of £18 million (£3.6 million) for the year to April, on sales of £2.8 billion, and confirmed its intention to float on the stock market in 1995. But massive write-downs on the value of Herman's, its American

sportswear subsidiary, left it nursing an overall loss for the year of £143 million. The book value of Herman's has been written down by £144.8 million pending its sale.

Ernest Sharp, chairman, who saw his salary cut from £144,000 to £135,000, said progress had been made during the year, despite extremely difficult trading conditions. Trading at Gateway Foodmarkets remains difficult, margins are under pressure and competition is intense. Isosceles is pressing on with

plans to rebrand the nationwide chain under five new labels with strong regional focus. When the two-or three-year programme is complete, the number of Gateway stores will have fallen from 650 to just over 100.

The sale of 42 stores to Kwik Save in April last year reduced turnover by £110 million and operating profits by £5.5 million.

The company said the latest refinancing had left £100 million clear for its development programme.

Pearson gloomy as interims tumble

By COLIN CAMPBELL

LORD Blakenham, chairman of Pearson, yesterday announced pre-tax profits down from £40.7 million to £34.8 million in the six months to end-June. He believes the recession will go on for another two years at least.

There is no sign of an end to the recession, and conditions are not improving, he added.

The publishing, banking and industrial group, whose interests include the Financial Times, the Tussauds Group and a 50 per cent stake in Lazard Brothers, saw profits fall in three of its six divisions, but is maintaining its interim dividend at 5.375p a share.

He said reduced exploration budgets at the big oil groups were responsible for the fall in

profits of the oil services division, but profits from newspapers had advanced. Trading profits from books were £2.4 million, against £13 million losses last time.

Pearson said it had considered various acquisitions in the past six months, including newspaper interests in Scotland and southern England. But they did not meet its criteria of price and would not have added to shareholder value.

Pearson was not interested in buying the Observer, and though it did investigate the possibility of bidding for the Daily Mirror, the Mirror debt would have been too large, Lord Blakenham said.

BSkyB, in which Pearson has a 16 per cent stake, has been profitable at the trading level since March.

Tempos, page 18

Talk of loan leaks sweeps markets

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England is believed to be looking into complaints that several banks this week traded on inside information about the government's £7.25 billion loan, announced on Thursday.

Last night, National Westminster, one of the banks that arranged the loan, firmly denied there had been any leak from its syndicated loan department or that it had made any unusual trades in the gilt-edged market.

Martin Owen, chief executive of NatWest Markets, said: "We have had no complaints ourselves and no indication of any complaint from the Bank of England."

"Our syndicated lending operates behind Chinese walls, and we had no abnormal trading figures in the days before the loan."

"Claims like these happen when people are losing money

and they love to say that someone else had preferential knowledge about an event."

Allegations of insider dealing swept through the City all day, encouraged by gilt dealers and market-makers who were caught out by the sharp rise in prices on Thursday afternoon, after the announcement of the government loan.

Another rumour suggested that Deutsche Bank had been a heavy buyer of FT-SE call options earlier this week. This was denied by a bank spokesman in Frankfurt, who said no such dealing had taken place.

The Bank of England refused to confirm whether it had received formal complaints about market movements during the week. A spokesman said: "If anyone made a complaint to us we would investigate it thoroughly."

We'll muddle through, says Pandora Maxwell

By ANGELA MACKAY



Pandora: kept her composure

PANDORA Maxwell has once again come to her family's defence in her usual no-nonsense fashion. "We will muddle through and just play it day by day," she said in response to questions about how she will deal with Kevin, her husband, being made Britain's biggest bankrupt.

Mrs Maxwell may not be able to maintain her composure, however, if Peter DuBuisson, the new trustee from BDO Binder Hamlyn, is forced to unwind some of her husband's transactions. Under the Insolvency Act 1986, Mr DuBuisson is able to reverse any deals during the past five years that he considers have been done at less than their full value.

The Maxwells recently sold their

Chelsea house for about £1.4 million and now live at Hill Barn Farm, a comfortable bungalow home, in Hailey, Oxfordshire. Mrs Maxwell is believed to own that house; the terms of the purchase, however, are unknown.

Mr DuBuisson, who now actually owns all of Mr Maxwell's former assets, has his work cut out. He will have to follow the well-worn path to Lichfield to look at Maxwell family trusts, then turn his sights on assets that may be lurking in America.

"I hope to meet Mr Maxwell early next week to prepare an up-to-date statement of his financial affairs," Mr DuBuisson said. "A creditors' meeting will follow as soon as possible."

At the meeting, he will ask that Philip Sykes, his colleague from

Binder Hamlyn who was joint administrator of Sock Shop with Mr DuBuisson, be appointed joint trustee. Mr DuBuisson has a track record for unravelling complicated financial mysteries. He was, for example, a department of trade inspector examining Minet Holdings, the insurance company.

Mr Maxwell, 33-year-old youngest son of the late Robert Maxwell, the disgraced newspaper tycoon, was officially declared bankrupt to the sum of £406.5 million after a two-hour private hearing at the High Court in London on Thursday.

The bankruptcy petition was filed by the liquidator of Bishopsgate Investment Management, who is trying to trace millions missing from the Maxwell empire's pension funds.

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Russians aim to command skies over Farnborough

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

GOING to the Farnborough air show this year will be like visiting the Motor Show and finding it dominated by Ladas and Skodas. So many Russian and former eastern bloc manufacturers want to display their products that they have had to be rationed.

Even so, 15 different CIS aircraft will appear at various times during the week-long show, which opens tomorrow. This compares with eight from Britain and only one — a helicopter — from America. While

Britain's aerospace industry contemplates dwindling order books and falling profits, the Russians are mounting their most determined drive yet to break into the western market. Sergei Mikheyev, president of the Kamov design bureau, has even bid for a British Army Air Corps contract for 130 attack helicopters.

Such a proposal would have been laughed at only a few months ago but such is the squeeze on costs now being imposed that the defence ministry said last night that it was prepared to consider the bid, provided the Russians could prove that their helicopter could compete on equal

terms with anything built in the West and that spares could be guaranteed.

The Russians will send 437 salesmen and representatives to the show, including 81 from the government and leading aerospace companies and design bureaux. In all, 20 aircraft will be exhibited, including seven not seen before in the West. Aircraft with names such as Foxhound, Fencer, Flogger and Backfire will show their places in the skies over Hampshire and Surrey, while salesmen press drinks and food on anyone who visits their chalets along the flight line.

The big American plane-makers

have all but disappeared. Boeing will not have an aircraft on show and, although it has a hospitality chalet, it has no exhibit in the show halls and fewer marketing men on hand than ever before. "It is just prudent in the current climate," said an official.

British Aerospace has a mere four aircraft types in the flying display — the ATP, the Hawk trainer, 146 derivatives and the Jetstream 41. The company does not expect many big orders to be placed.

Military budgets, which last year fuelled £550 billion to the world's aerospace and armament manufacturers, are being reduced sharply and

the civil aviation market is in steep decline. However, the Society of British Aerospace Companies, which organises the show, maintains that it is satisfied with the number of exhibitors. There are 650 of them, well below the 800 who came in 1990, when the last show was held. Rolls-Royce has achieved a significant success by supplying RB211-535 engines for the Tupolev Tu-204, a 200-seat twin jet which will make an appearance at Farnborough and which, its designers believe, will be able to compete on equal terms with both Boeing and Airbus aircraft of the same size.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Hire firm condemns move to oust chairman

ANDREWS Sykes, a plant hire group, has urged shareholders to block an attempt by minority investors to oust David Hubbard, the chairman, and gain control of the board. European Fire Protection and Midland Bank Overseas Nominees, which together hold 27 per cent of the shares, have convened an extraordinary meeting to remove Mr Hubbard and David Crowe, a non-executive director, and replace them with Jacques Murray and three French associates.

Mr Murray, the chairman of Nu-Swift, a fire protection group, was the business partner of Andrew Fitton, a former chief executive of Andrews Sykes, who left the company after a boardroom dispute last year. The bid to oust Mr Hubbard has surprised some investors, as Mr Murray voted for his reappointment two months ago at the annual meeting. The board said it viewed with concern "this unusual attempt by a minority shareholder to gain management control of the company and will be recommending shareholders to vote against the resolutions at the extraordinary meeting".

Medeva in £4.9m deal

MEDEVA, the expanding pharmaceuticals group, has extended its range with the acquisition of licences and trademarks for 25 products from SmithKline Beecham for £4.9 million. The deal includes iron and vitamin supplements, cardiovascular treatments and antibiotics, with total annual sales of £2.5 million, which SmithKline will continue to manufacture. Medeva has boosted its range throughout the year with several deals, including the acquisition of 30 products from Glaxo, and hepatitis B and typhoid vaccines. It also bought International Medication Systems of America.

Taylor Nelson ahead

TAYLOR Nelson, the market research group formerly known as Addison Consultancy, said enquiry levels and new business were on budget and ahead of last year. It expects to pay a total dividend above last year's 0.15p a share. The company reported profits up from £40,000 before tax to £1.6 million in the six months to end-June, reflecting the acquisition of AGB Research from the administrators of the private companies of Robert Maxwell, a deal funded via a £16 million rights issue. Earnings were 0.63p a share, against a restated 0.05p last year. The interim dividend is 0.10p (nil) a share.

Pittencreeff credit line

PITTENCREEFF, the acquisitive communications and natural resources group, is finalising a credit line of \$25 million to fund oil and gas asset purchases, due to be completed before the end of this year. The company, based in Edinburgh but with operations in America, said higher oil and gas prices and increased production would also enhance second-half profits. The interim dividend rises from 2.5p a share to 3p on pre-tax profits up from £1.55 million to £2.21 million in the half-year to end-June. Earnings were 9.4p a share, up from 7.19p. Net cash stood at £6.8 million on June 30.

Perry maintains payout

PERRY Group, the motor dealer, is holding the interim dividend at 2.75p a share after pre-tax profits fell from £1.1 million to £553,000 in the six months to end-June. Sales slipped to £150.98 million (£154.1 million), reducing operating profits to £2.14 million (£2.57 million). Perry gave warning that a turnaround was not likely until the economy recovers. Capital expenditure has thus been curtailed. Property transactions under negotiation would enable the diversion of funds from less profitable areas into developing established activities.

Supplier cuts losses

GIBBS and Dandy, a builders' merchant, is unable to resume dividend payments despite reducing interim losses from £405,000 before tax to £92,000 in the half-year to June 30. The company said the expected recovery in the construction industry after the general election had failed to materialise. Turnover fell from £11.6 million to £11.3 million. Operating profits recovered from £65,000 to £121,000. Reduced capital spending caused interest charges to fall from £298,000 to £213,000.

Trust asset value rises

THOMPSON Clive Investments, an investment trust specialising in venture capital, said net asset value was 175p a share on June 30, up from 166.7p a year earlier. Pre-tax profits fell from £354,000 to £218,000 in the six months to the end of June, while earnings per share fell from 2.05p a share to 1.3p. There is again no interim dividend but it is anticipated that a final dividend will be recommended.

SG Warburg pulls out of 362 stocks

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

STOCK market efficiency suffered a heavy blow yesterday when SG Warburg, the merchant banking group, said it was pulling out of 362 stocks.

Warburg's decision leaves 90 companies with only one market maker. They could all be forced to trade on the Stock Exchange's new bulletin board for matched bargains unless other market makers step in quickly.

The list of casualties includes many well-known companies, including Sketchley, the dry-cleaning group, Wembley, Manchester United, Union Discount, the discount house, and Sturge, the Lloyd's insurance managing agent. Warburg, however, said trading volumes were too low in these stocks to generate profits.

The cutbacks have caused five redundancies, while two other market makers have transferred to the international equities business.

Lord Cairns, Warburg's chief executive, said the group had not calculated how much it would save, but that it had been losing money from dealing in the stocks even before it accounted for central costs. "We are always trying to improve our returns. Being very good at making markets in smaller companies we have put well down our list of priorities," he said.

Warburg said it remained

committed to the British equity market and would still make markets in 1,400 stocks. The list of companies to be dropped was carefully vetted and does not include any corporate clients or companies which the bank thinks will bring in extra business in future. The cutback is part of Lord Cairns drive to improve returns in Warburg's equity business.

Company chiefs said they were disappointed by Warburg's decision to drop them. Richard Meyers, the finance director of Sketchley, said: "We are not best pleased but not surprised considering the low volume of trading going through at the moment. The move reflects the times."

Companies who are left with only one market maker are now faced with a desperate scramble to find another firm willing to deal in their shares or they face being relegated to the bulletin board.

The bulletin board, set up by the Stock Exchange earlier this year, is a computer system that allows shares to be traded by matching bids and offers and is used for very illiquid stocks.

One hope for the companies is Winterflood Securities, the smaller company market maker, which said yesterday it was looking through the list of Warburg's rejects to find companies in which to trade.



Pluto packs them in: Euro Disney received 6m visitors in its first five months

Europeans flock to Disney theme park

SIX million people have visited the Euro Disney theme park since it opened on April 12 — 1 million more than visited Walt Disney's Epcot Center in Florida in its first five months.

Philippe Bourgoignon, Euro Disney's new president, said attendances at the theme park outside Paris also surpassed those at the Tokyo Disney park by more than 1.5 million in its first five months.

"I am extremely pleased with these figures," Mr Bourgoignon said. Euro Disney's goal is 11 million paying visitors in its first 12 months.

Analysts in London and Paris said the figures showed attendance had picked up impressively since July 22, when the total was 3.6 million, about 12 per cent behind the park's expectations.

But they said important questions continue to hang over the theme park. In the April to July period, Euro Disney's pricing has been more aggressive than expected, leaving revenues about 6 per cent below forecasts. The market expects about 70 per cent of Euro Disney's attendances during the summer.

Robert Fitzpatrick, chairman of Euro Disney, said 1.6 million French, 1.2 million Britons, 1 million Germans and 2.2 million other Europeans visited the park.

In London, Euro Disney shares closed down 5p at 845p, recovering from 828p. In Paris, the shares opened at Fr86, rising to Fr88 on the attendance figures.

GEC signals further job cuts

By PATRICIA TEHAN

GENERAL Electric Company, the electronics group, is considering selling some of its non-core manufacturing businesses. Further job cuts are also on the cards this year.

Lord Prior, the chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting that the main businesses — electronics systems, power systems and telecommunications — were holding high order books and benefiting from restructuring. But, he said: "In some of our other trading sectors we are not progressing as we would wish: market conditions are

not improving and further action will be taken."

This includes disposals, further job cuts and management changes aimed at thinning out the business. GEC is to sell one of its five main non-core businesses and may attempt to sell at least one more.

Jim Ross, electronics analyst at Hoare Govett, the broker, said there is a general view GEC is to sell the parts that do not fit its main businesses. Its industrial apparatus division, which makes cables and lifts, is believed to be high on the disposal list. Mr Ross estimates the non-core consumer goods, electronic metering equipment, office equipment, printing and electronic components businesses to be worth about £1.4 billion, compared with GEC's total market capitalisation of £6.3 billion.

Lord Prior told shareholders the restructuring was paying off. "Our policy of requiring profits to show in cash has led to increases in our bank balances with consequent higher interest income. Overall, profits are slightly above this time last year, despite marginally lower sales."

CBI seeks end to nuclear levy

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

HOWARD Davies, the head of the Confederation of British Industry, is calling on the government to end the controversial "nuclear levy" for Britain's biggest energy users. He suggests, in a letter to Tim Eggar, the energy minister, that the government should consider a cap on the so-called non-fossil fuel levy, or a waiver of the payment for large users.

The call follows this week's debate about the nuclear levy, started by Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, who said he was in favour of a faster and more

certain reduction in the levy. Professor Littlechild sets the levy in December each year, but does not have the power to speed up its reduction. It is due to end in 1998.

A CBI spokesman confirmed that Mr Davies had written a "private letter" to Mr Eggar. He said: "The CBI has for a long time campaigned for competitive energy prices for larger users. We think that any relief for large users should be at the expense of the exchequer and not at the expense of the electricity supply industry" or any of the

CBI's members. Nuclear Electric, which condemned Professor Littlechild's proposals to cut the levy this week, is a CBI member.

The levy is 11p in the pound on all electricity bills to subsidise the high cost of power generation from non-renewable sources such as nuclear, wind and wave power. The levy totals £1.3 billion, 97 per cent of which goes to Nuclear Electric. Intensive energy users have been lobbying for a cut in the levy, arguing high electricity costs make them uncompetitive.

THE SUNDAY TIMES Biggest losers

Personal fortunes in the early 1990s have plummeted by an unprecedented degree. Through a mixture of poor judgment, cruel luck and overweening ambition, reputations have been crushed and fortunes shredded... The fallen entrepreneurs: Business Focus in The Sunday Times tomorrow

Small business centre to open in Moscow

By OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

GILLIAN Shepherd, the employment secretary, is to open Moscow's first government-owned small business centre on September 14.

The centre is a co-operative venture between the Russian government and the employment department under the British government's Know How Fund. The fund, established in 1989, provides technical assistance to central and eastern European countries, to

encourage stability during the transition from a centrally planned to market economy. It has invested £7 million in 100 projects and 95 staff are seconded as advisers.

Mrs Shepherd's visit follows a trip by Michael Forsyth, the employment minister, to Poland and Bulgaria next week where he will sign agreements for further technical assistance under the fund.

A senior employment department official expects Mrs Shepherd to find the Russians beginning to acknowledge real unemployment for the first time. He said over the past year there has been a significant increase in the reported unemployment in eastern European countries.

The official Russian figure is 1.5 per cent, but real unemployment is believed to be nearer 10 per cent. In Poland, unemployment was 12.2 per cent in February, forecast to reach 19 per cent by next year, while in Bulgaria, it was 14 per cent in July and is expected to hit 18 per cent by 1993.

The department is providing advice on employment issues and establishing training centres. The official said these countries "find it valuable that we are prepared to send people out to look at the problems and find solutions".

Meanwhile, UNICE, the European employers' confederation, is to meet John Major on September 15 to press for urgent action to stimulate economic recovery in Europe.

Pearson braced for a bout of cost-cutting

PEARSON'S Lazard investment banking arm advises you how to make money, and its Financial Times newspaper tells you how to spend it. Now the group itself is telling shareholders that cost-cutting is the order of the day and likely to remain so for the next two years.

Group profits have been pinched in three recession-hit areas — oil services, investment banking, and fine china — though there were profit advances in newspapers, books and entertainment.

Elsevier, the Dutch publisher to which Pearson was engaged until the marriage plans were called off, made a £5.1 million contribution at the trading level last year, but is a discontinued item in this year's results.

The outcome for the six months to June 30 is an 18 per cent fall in trading profits to £42.1 million, though a net interest charge that was clipped by £3.3 million to £7.3 million limited the slide at the pre-tax level to 14 per cent — from £40.7 million to £34.8 million.

The interim dividend is maintained at 5.375p but, because of the traditional distribution of Pearson's profits between the first and second halves, the payout is not covered.

The swing by book businesses from £13.4 million of first-half losses last year, to £2.4 million of profits, shows what can be achieved; and in a testing market, trading prof-



Capital outlook: John Gardner's Laird Group is profiting from investment

its from newspapers advanced from £13.8 million to £15.1 million.

Pearson's sensitivity to reduced exploration budgets is evident from the £9.2 million fall, to £7.4 million, in profits from oil services. If there is a return to better days by this division, it will be slow.

Cost cutting includes taking advantage of contract renewal dates to squeeze more advantageous terms, faster debt collection, and

continuing staff cuts that are likely to trim the wage bill by £20 million this year and by £11 million more next.

A £2 pound could mean a £9 million dent in 1992 profits. Year-end profit forecasts that stood at £170 million have been cut to £156 million, and 1993 profit hopes of £210 million have been clipped to £190 million.

The shares rose 5p to 317p yesterday, but are well down from their 454p level in May,

and trade on 16.3 times prospective earnings. They cannot be expected to outperform until all the business clouds lift.

Laird

THE Laird Group, headed by John Gardner, is doing surprisingly well in dull markets, and is well-structured for the upturn — if and when it comes. The harvest from £62 million of capital expenditure

over the past two years, mainly in the seating systems and industrial products divisions, is being gathered; both divisions recorded sharp profit increases in the half-year to June 30.

Laird's total pre-tax profit — £20.5 million for the half — against £14.4 million — owes something to a recovery from depressed results previously. A cold wind, though, blew over the group's American interests and trading profits from service industries slipped from £5.35 million to £3.51 million.

Divisional profits may vary with changing fortunes, but Laird's dividend policy remains progressive. The interim dividend goes up from 4p to 4.2p and, all things being equal, the group will celebrate its 21st year of dividend increases when the 1992 final is announced.

Most profit continues to come from outside Britain, and there is no suggestion — yet — that the German and the French motor industries are running out of steam.

April's £41.4 million rights issue gives Laird muscle for acquisitions and for capital expenditure. Provided its main markets do not falter, 1992 pre-tax profits could bounce back from last year's depressed £28.4 million, to about £40 million.

At 266p, up 9p, the shares trade on 12 times prospective earnings, backed by a 5.3 per cent yield. They deserve better recognition.

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:		
SA Breweries	738p (+25p)	
Northern Foods	227p (+10p)	
News Corp	905p (+25p)	
Roimans 'B'	532p (+15p)	
Laird	268p (+9p)	
SKF 'B'	850p (+25p)	
FALLS:		
Abbey National	267p (-10p)	
Whesave	219p (-14p)	
Unilever	930p (-13p)	
Rank Org	483p (-10p)	

Closing Prices Page 25

RECENT ISSUES

Birkby (100)	90	-1	TR Tech Units	1700	...
Broadgate Inv Trust (100)	101	...	Telegraph (325)	283	+1
Dartmoor Inv Trs Wts	8	+1	Throg 1000 Smir Co Wts	15	...
Dwyer A	19	...	Yorkshire TV Wts	13	-1
Euro Smaller Co's	82	...			
Euro Smaller Wts	22	...			
Fininvest Smir Co O Prf	147p	-1			
Jupiter Euro Zero D P	37p	...			
Kiwort Endowment Pkly	100	...			
SHIRESCOT	495	...			

RIGHTS ISSUES

Malaya Group 10p N/P (10)	6	...
Nova Group 5p N/P (30)	4	...
Worthington 10p N/P (31)	1	...

BUSINESS PROFILE: Tim Waterstone

Maverick wins good book value in final pages

The departure, for a second time, of WH Smith's wayward son closes the last chapter in a bitter-sweet saga, writes Debra Isaac

Tim Waterstone threw a party, "a very personal party," this week. The venue was Waterstone's bookshop in Kensington High Street and the occasion was the 10th anniversary of the chain of bookshops he founded that is now 86 strong and is widely accepted to have changed the face of British bookselling.

Waterstone, 52, wryly noted it was as personal as a party of 470 people can be, and the guest list was most revealing. Almost half the invited guests were Waterstone's management. He has made much in the past of his "hands on" leadership style, personally visiting shops and being on first name terms with staff. Recently, however, Waterstone confesses he has lost some of that direct touch: "I no longer know people's names." Reflecting this, most of the other half of the guests were editors and authors, such as Lady Antonia Fraser, Salman Rushdie and P. D. James.

Waterstone, a self-confessed depressive, says the last three years have brought bouts of depression. He has had, he says, a sort of gentlemen's agreement with Sir Simon Hornby, the man who fired him in 1989, having fired him eight years previously after he lost millions running its American operations.

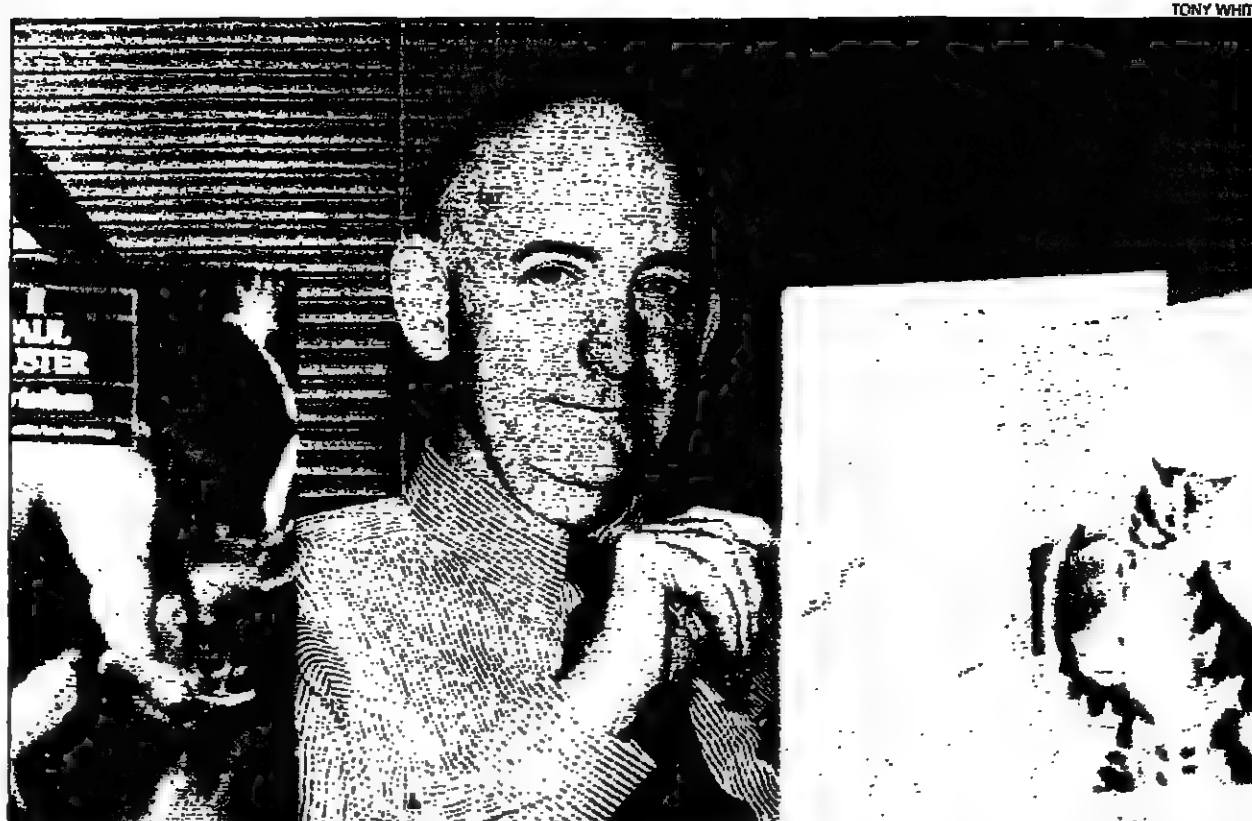
"I have some friends at Smith's, but not many; perhaps only half a dozen," Waterstone says. He hesitates, but less out of reticence, it seems, than to allow the interviewer time to probe, to discover more about this state of affairs. Quiet and superficially reserved in manner, gnomic and slight in appearance, Waterstone may at first give the impression of being an intensely private, purely bookish, self-effacing man. Nothing could be further from the truth. In endless interviews, as the Waterstone's phenomenon has grown, he has disclosed details about himself, his personal life, mistakes, and family, in great bouts of frankness, openness and indiscretion. One soon senses that he is fanatically self-absorbed and that, like most people, there is nothing he likes better than talking about himself. Sure enough, revelations about WH Smith soon follow. "I am a maverick and I love leading," he says. "In many ways it has not been a natural position for me being part of WH Smith again. In a sense you could say I've been trapped by my own

'I've been trapped by my own earn-out formula and, yes, I do feel perhaps I've been slightly caged'

earn-out formula for four years and, yes, I do feel perhaps I've been slightly caged."

With £9 million guaranteed from selling to those who have "caged" him, such admissions may elicit little sympathy. However, Waterstone, a self-confessed depressive, says the last three years have brought bouts of depression. He has had, he says, a sort of gentlemen's agreement with Sir Simon Hornby, the man who fired him in 1989, having fired him eight years previously after he lost millions running its American operations.

"We've avoided quarrels," Waterstone says. "I'm close to Malcolm. He knew me before, and he's handled me very skillfully. He doesn't involve me in things I hate, like an excess of corporate life." Waterstone says he has learnt to "bite my lip on occasion". As



Between the lines: Tim Waterstone has no firm plans for his future but says he cannot imagine a life without books

a result, "Running Waterstone's has been nothing like the fun of the early days. I draw from the fun of leading teams, making friendships, getting people to do what you want them to do. There has been less of that, but we've got by."

Waterstone's remarks epitomise the entrepreneur who has built a business and sold it for millions only to find the "exhilaration" of the early days disappear. Perhaps his tongue has been loosened and the desire to restate early achievements sharpened by his imminent departure from Waterstone's next year when his contract expires. Ironically, he will help establish the chain in America before bowing out. Certainly, Sir Malcolm thinks that in spelling out the differences between Waterstone and Smith's, drawing attention to his individualism and the need for others to handle him "with care".

Waterstone has been guilty of oversteering his case. In 1989, for instance, just three months before selling to Smith's, Waterstone confessed that he had never been a Smith's man, and that the company had never been able to accom-

modate him, finding him "too individualistic".

Sir Malcolm disagrees: "We interviewed six people when we hired him, initially in the UK, and he was easily the best candidate with the strongest grasp of our business." Even then, he adds, Waterstone's entrepreneurial flair was evident but he denies the man he recruited was not a company man. "I think he was a Smith's man and I think he enjoyed working for the company enormously in those days."

Sir Malcolm also says the relationship in the last three years has not been as strained as Waterstone indicates. "Neither of us had really changed so we both knew what to expect. I wouldn't agree it's been a 'hands off' relationship. We both felt it was important to work together for the future prosperity of the business and I think we've worked extremely well together."

If there have been differences, Sir Malcolm suggests, they have had more to do with the terms of the earn-out formula than personalities. Under his contract, Waterstone receives £9 million on leaving plus a bonus if Waterstone's outperforms the

stores sector. So far it has not, but there is a good chance that it will in the final year. An eye on next year's profits affects investment decisions and from the start Waterstone and Sir Malcolm agreed a capital investment plan to avoid disagreements. "We have had a long-term view and he has had a short-term view sometimes," says Sir Malcolm. "That's why it was so important to have that agreement at the start."

Just why Waterstone chooses to accentuate the differences between himself and his WH Smith bosses can only be guessed at. Waterstone, however, is clearly keen on self-expression. He regards himself as a "spiritual" man, keen on prayer and High Church services, yet people find this difficult to reconcile with his two divorces and his marriage to a third wife, Rosie, who is a youthful 29.

He admits that "in many ways my private life has been lamentable. I have not been a model father. How could I have been?" Yet he has six children and his wife is due to give birth in December. Open to the point of indiscre-

tion, he continues to bare his soul in public even though his frankness has caused grief. He once told a journalist about an estrangement with his son. The ensuing article was moving, but upset his son. "It was a mistake," he says and will not discuss it further.

The extent of his passion for books, and the value he attaches to wealth, also provoke controversy. His father was an "unbookish" tea planter, and Waterstone likes to relate how his elder brother initiated him into books at the age of three. The pair discovered literature reading on the floor of a local bookshop. Literature, Waterstone insists, is "essential" to his being. "Nothing is so internally peaceful as reading. Books satisfy a part of the intellect that needs to be stimulated. Books, books, books, books," he suddenly explodes. "I couldn't live without books. I can't imagine that happening."

Some even suspect that this passion is overstated. He read English Literature at Cambridge, but his first job was in management at Allied Breweries. Sir Malcolm says: "There's absolutely no doubt he's passionate about Water-

stone's and passionate about books and devoted to Waterstone's being a brand that is second to none. I would think, though, that although he's always liked literature, that absolute passion for books developed subsequent rather than previous to Waterstone's success. If you are aged 35, and seeking a way to be successful, and books turn out to be the secret of that success, then you probably would get pretty passionate about them."

Waterstone's offhand comments about the unimportance of money also inspire distrust. Asked what he will do with his £9 million, he replies he finds the question vulgar. "I have six children to provide for," he says, as though this explains where £9 million goes. He says he personally requires little wealth. He has a "pretty house in Chelsea", insists he spends only on books and CDs, and buys most of his clothes from Marks & Spencer. Few believe, however, that Waterstone is not concerned with money and he admits that while books are "essential" he would not run a bookshop that did not make money. "I enjoy adding up numbers. There is sloppiness involved in non-profit-making businesses." He leaps to defend his profit record when it is attacked. When he sold his business to WH Smith, Waterstone's was making losses and borrowing caused by rapid expansion had left the business dangerously overstretched. People have often wondered whether, like other retailing stars of the 1980s, Waterstone would by now have fallen from grace without WH Smith.

Waterstone accepts his business was "terribly over-gear'd" in 1989 and "almost unmanageable", but is loath to concede it was incapable of continuing. "It was a terrifying option but we could have raised more capital," he says. "We might have had a tough time or lost our corporate nerve but I really want to accentuate that we had a really profitable branch network."

'Books, books, books. I couldn't live without books. I can't imagine that happening'

The branches have always been blissfully profitable. That would have carried on. Equally, he wants it to be known the branches are still "blissfully successful". Margins at Waterstone's, he says, are on a par with the most profitable parts of Smith's.

Sir Malcolm agrees only up to a point. "We are well pleased with what we have achieved so far because we filled a niche in our strategy," he says. What the exact price-earnings ratio will be, however, will not be known until next year. As to the margins, Waterstone's, he says, do not yet match Smith's best. "They are moving in that direction, but they are certainly not there yet."

In terms of his timing in selling to WH Smith, and realising his shares, at least, Waterstone has every reason to congratulate himself and does so with relish. "I've been amused by the accuracy of my own timing," he admits. "I enjoy exquisite financial manipulation of that kind just as I enjoy the exquisite fun of succeeding where others said I'd fail." Few people would deny Waterstone's has been a cultural success. In the face of scepticism, he created a chain of shops, aesthetically pleasing to book lovers, well-stocked and open at all hours. What will become of his legacy seems to matter less and less to its creator. He remains vague about his own plans, except to say it would be "surprising if I didn't have some further association with books". He has played little part in the choice of his successor, Alan Giles, a WH Smith manager to the core.

Does it distress him to be leaving behind the phenomenon he created? "Of course," he says. "It does hurt. I am arrogant enough not to want to see it spoilt." That said, when he departs next year, that will be it, leaving Waterstone's in the hands of the company that set it all in train by sucking him. A curious way, you might think, of letting go.

WEEK-ENDING: Matthew Bond

Higher marks point to falling standards in the unruly ministerial class of '92

THERE could be good news on the way for understandably confused holders of new GCSE certificates, bewildered by the speed at which congratulatory pats on the back have turned to vicious stabs in the self-same dorsal region.

For *Week-Ending* has learned that a new report written by Her Majesty's Inspectorate is likely to divert attention well away from the unhappy goings-on in the classrooms and examination halls of Britain. Strenuous efforts are being made to keep the report's shock findings secret, but a well-placed and concerned source believes the truth must be told and has forwarded a copy of the report, stamped Top Secret.

It makes frightening reading. After weeks of investigations, the inspectors have concluded that there has been "a marked erosion of standards" since the new government was introduced in April. The inspectors go on to say that they have "little or no confidence" that ministerial standards are being maintained and fear that this growing lack of ability in a number of key subjects is spreading to other parts of the establishment.

On spelling, punctuation and grammar, the report lets ministers off relatively lightly, pointing out that civil servants are there to help with really tricky words. Its most serious criticisms were reserved for the subjects of mathematics and political constitution. The report also expressed serious concern about the course work element that allows ministers to grade their own response to questions.

It cites one particular example. When asked the question "Is President Mitterrand a dictator and demagogue?" only one grade A was awarded, to the candidate from Huntingdon who gave himself top marks for answering yes, but then declined the invitation to justify the response on television, or indeed in the Palace of Westminster. The inspectors believe the right answer is "No. He is a



democrat", a response that so far has been officially graded U — unsound — as has the response to the ancillary question "No".

They also expressed concern about the same candidate's response to the multiple choice question: Who determines which bills pass through the British Houses of Parliament? Is it a) the British government? b) the British electorate? or c) the French electorate?

Again, top marks were only self-awarded for answer "c". In their report, the inspectors say the correct answer was "a", but suggested candidates who answered "b" could be awarded half marks for demonstrating some understanding of the democratic process.

The report says it is even more alarmed about mathematics standards and again cites examples. When asked the simple question: "How many houses are there in Britain?" a candidate from Henley — said by many to be

the golden boy of his year — again awarded himself top marks, despite being more than one million out with his answer.

The inspectors also pointed out that the answer to the supplementary question "How much could you raise by taxing each of these properties on the basis of value?" should have been "d" — "An awful lot less than you might imagine".

The report goes on to provide worrying evidence of the speed and spread of the decline. It alludes to a former treasurer to the Conservative party who only a short time ago could add up individual party contributions and quickly arrive at the grand total of £38 million. But his abilities have clearly waned, to such an extent that no matter how many times he does the sums his personal total is stuck at minus £1 million.

The external examiners have awarded an interim B grade (a fail in these cases)

although the recipient is challenging the decision. The same examiners have also been considering the grades awarded to an Oxford-educated and latterly Oxfordshire-domiciled publisher.

Last year, when the candidate was asked to calculate a simple list of assets and liabilities, he came up with an impressive positive total. However, after allegations that his father may have helped him with the sums, the examiners have had another look at the papers. This week, they decided that the correct total was actually minus £406 million, a margin of error that prompted them to award the worst B grade ever.

The report draws attention to an altercation over one of the most advanced questions on the applied mathematics paper — "Your economy needs to borrow at least £28 billion and your currency is worth less every day. Do you a) put up interest rates? b) put up taxes? c) devalue the currency? or d) borrow £7 billion worth of marks?"

The candidate from Kingston-upon-Thames who plumped for "d" was immediately failed by nonplussed examiners who could find no precedent in any of their past papers. The right answer, at least according to the examiners, was "a", securing a distinction for the well-rehearsed candidate from Rome.

But the man from Kingston, identified only by his examination number — "11" — refused to accept he could be wrong and appealed against the grading, vociferously arguing that he would bet anyone at least DM2.80 to the pound that he was right.

After an emergency meeting of the foreign exchange markets, and with the pound rising as quickly as GCSE pass rates, the appeal board was forced to conclude that he just might be right and awarded him a provisional grade A.

Two victories in two weeks. Standards may be slipping, but candidate "11" is on a run. How? Discuss, writing on both sides of the paper.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5 1992

Half-measures on life charges

Telling people how much of their life assurance premiums will be eaten up in charges and expenses should not be that difficult. But investors and even regulators have been fobbed off for years by insurance companies wanting to disguise the impact of high commissions and expensive administration by claiming that any disclosure was too complicated as well as being meaningless.

This was, and is, nonsense. Regulators have finally forced companies to admit that they are able to tell consumers how much of every pound of premium has been deducted rather than invested. This weekend, the in-trays at the Office of Fair Trading are groaning with comments on the latest disclosure proposals from the Securities and Investments Board and the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation as the OFT prepares to examine the proposed rules for possible anti-competitive practices.

At first sight, these proposals look promising. Life offices will have to

produce a "key features" document to be given to an investor by a salesman. The document will contain information on the policy and will explain whether the salesman is independent or allowed to sell only one company's policies. It will also contain a standard example to show how much money goes in charges and expenses. This will be shown as a "pence in the pound" calculation. An illustration of how charges will affect the investor actually buying the policy will be illustrated in a follow-up document sent with the "cooling off notice".

Unfortunately, for every one step forward, the two regulators have taken two steps back. There is little point giving information on charges unless people can compare them with those of other offices. A boast that "we take only 40 pence out of every pound in charges" is pretty meaningless unless the investor has



COMMENT

SARA MCCONNELL
PERSONAL FINANCE WRITER

easy access to a league table showing that in fact this is likely to be one of the most expensive offices to buy a policy from.

The only way investors will be able to compare charges will be to apply to a selection of life offices and compare the costs they are quoted for their individual circumstances. Life offices may have to tell investors how much they have deducted for charges but they will not have to specify that they will not apply if the policy is held for its full term. Charges weigh much more heavily in the early years of a policy, as the

40 per cent of investors surrendering early know only too well.

Mountains of paper and years of man-hours have been spent on producing what is still a cumbersome and unsatisfactory system. The Office of Fair Trading should tell them so. It should insist that people are told how much of their own policy will be eaten up in charges during the first meeting instead of being given a lot of irrelevant information about standard charges. It cannot be beyond the computer power of life offices to provide this. Regulators believe it is

not their role to provide league tables of the most and least expensive life offices. The OFT should insist that they do so. This would be an important contribution to the competitiveness of life assurance.

Taking cover

Next week, the Association of British Insurers will announce another huge increase in the number and amount of domestic theft claims. The number of claims since the beginning of the year has more than doubled. Hard-pressed householders know from past experience that they can expect large increases in premiums as a follow-up.

The Consumers Association reported this week that even in low-risk areas, premiums had jumped alarmingly. Norwich Union, for

example, was charging 93 per cent more for its Contents Plus policy in a low-risk area, while Bishopsgate's House Care policy in an inner city high-risk area had risen by 91 per cent between 1991 and 1992.

Insurers could find that constant assaults on people's purses rebound on them as more people decide to take the risk of having no contents insurance. Already a quarter of people have no cover for their possessions and this could grow as they are squeezed from one end by the recession and from the other by their insurer. No one, least of all insurers, wants to encourage this mentality but some may have no choice.

Large premium increases may also add to fraudulent claims. The traditional rise in claims during a recession is generally ascribed to increased crime and to a greater inclination by the insured to squeeze every legitimate penny they can out of insurers. There is also the suspicion, however, that cash-strapped householders are more likely to top up their bank balances by making dishonest claims.

Bonus cut takes shine off company share schemes

Rates on Save As You Earn plans are to be lowered.

Sara McConnell reports

NO SAVER is now immune from falling interest rates, even those helping to achieve the government's ideal of wider share ownership among employees. From next month, the government will cut, by just over 1 per cent, the bonus rate paid to employees saving up to buy shares in their companies under the Save As You Earn scheme.

The schemes, introduced in 1980, are intended to encourage employee participation and company loyalty. Members are granted options to buy shares after five or seven years at a price fixed when the contract is taken out. Companies are allowed to offer a discount of up to 20 per cent on the market price of the shares at the time. Savers then invest a regular sum in a building society or other deposit account for at least five years, at the end of which they can either exercise their option to buy the shares or opt to take their savings plus a tax-free bonus. Alternatively they can hang on until seven years are up to qualify for a higher bonus. The minimum monthly investment is £10 and the maximum total monthly investment in one or more monthly contracts is £250.

This bonus for employees in any scheme not registered with the Inland Revenue by the end of September will be cut to the equivalent of 7.5 per cent, or 12½ times the monthly contribution for five year schemes. Those in schemes registered before then but after September 1990 will receive the existing higher bonus of 15 times the monthly contribution, the equivalent of 8.86 per cent. Those holding on for seven years after October 1 will be paid 25 times the monthly contribution, or 7.83 per cent, instead of the more generous 30 times the monthly contribution tax, or 9.15 per cent.

This means that someone investing the minimum £10 a month, saving £600 after five years, would receive a bonus of £150 under the old rate — £125 under the new rate.

Companies should not have grounds to complain that they were taken by surprise at the cut in rates, as the announce-

ment was made on July 1. The government argues that the old rates, which are all tax free, look over-generous compared with the shrunken interest rates offered by most savings institutions.

Save As You Earn schemes will now pay the same rate on their five-year bonus as National Savings' new 38th Issue Savings Certificates, paying 7.5 per cent tax free from August 24. This rate also depends on investors keeping their funds invested for five years.

Employers and savings institutions, including the Halifax, the Yorkshire Building Society, Abbey National and National Savings, argue that Save As You Earn schemes will still be a good deal for employees, even with their lower interest rate. "Anyone who can take one up should, as you can't lose," said the Abbey National. The advantage of Save As You Earn schemes for employees is that, even if the company's shares have fallen below the level set when the option was granted at the beginning of the five-year period, people can choose to take the money, with the bonus, rather than the shares and they will not lose any of their original investment.

Despite this, the take-up for schemes is widely acknowledged to be disappointing. In a survey of 550 companies carried out last year for Stoy Benefit Consulting by Business Marketing Services, only

34 per cent of eligible staff, on average, joined the scheme operated by their employer. Take-up was less than 10 per cent in 12 per cent of the companies surveyed. The survey reported that "this is perhaps surprising, given the very attractive incentives associated with the scheme. In only 15 per cent of companies does take-up exceed 60 per cent of eligible staff". Not surprisingly, take-up was generally better in companies that had made the effort to give their employees presentations and literature about the scheme.

Brian Friedman, managing director at Stoy Benefit Consulting, said that if the same survey were carried out this

year, the figures would not be very different. Robert Matthews, sales manager responsible for corporate business at the Yorkshire Building Society, which handles the individual savings accounts of 158,000 employees, said: "The average take-up is dropping. It peaked



Yvonne Adams: precision saving was at first ridiculed

in the boom-time of 1989. Since then the average take-up has slipped slightly on new accounts from around 38 per cent to 34 per cent. The average take-up on renewal is 17.5 per cent of eligible staff.

There's a problem for companies making further offers if the shares are not performing

could close down a contract where the option price appears to be set too high relative to the actual price of the shares and wait until the company introduced its next year's scheme. They would be gambling that the share price when the second contract matures will be better than the first, but there is no guarantee of this. All savers who stop saving early will have their funds returned but the money will not have earned interest unless the account has been open more than a year.

continues to stagnate, Mr Matthews said. "There is a problem for companies making further offers if shares are not performing," Mike Doyle, marketing manager for loans at the Abbey National, which runs schemes for more than 120 companies, agreed. "The

speculative of whether there is a boom period, there is always a degree of concern over shares. But savings contracts are still a good deal," Mr Friedman, of Stoy Hayward, said savers

could close down a contract where the option price appears to be set too high relative to the actual price of the shares and wait until the company introduced its next year's scheme. They would be gambling that the share price when the second contract matures will be better than the first, but there is no guarantee of this. All savers who stop saving early will have their funds returned but the money will not have earned interest unless the account has been open more than a year.

WHEN the Abbey National converted from a building society to a plc in 1989 in a blaze of publicity and controversy, it gave every saver and borrower free shares. Less publicly, it also set up a Save As You Earn scheme for its employees, giving them the chance to buy shares at a set price after saving for five years in a special account.

The first scheme was set up in April 1990 and was followed by two more in successive years. Yvonne Adams, who runs the Abbey's payroll, did not only have to decide whether to start saving herself in 1990 but had to explain the scheme to the 13 members of her department. She also had to explain why she chose to put away a monthly sum of £53 in the first scheme. Her precision

with her colleagues, although she is now saving £30 a month in the second scheme and £20 in this year's scheme.

Mrs Adams said: "There is an interest in investing in the company and it's more of a committed form of saving. I've got an Abbey account but it's all too easy to draw money out of that." The £103 is deducted from Mrs Adams'

How employees got the SAYE habit at Abbey National

salary every month. "Things would have to be very tight before I cashed it in," she said. "You can take your money out, but I wouldn't do it lightly." Some people have, however, dropped out of the second year scheme as the recession bit into their savings.

Those, like Mrs Adams, who participated in the first year's scheme in April 1990, will have the right to buy Abbey shares at 149p in 1995.

Of course, there is no knowing what the actual share price will be then, but at the moment it is standing at 269p. If it stayed at its current price until 1995 (unlikely), Mrs Adams would have saved £3,816, including a bonus then at a lower level of 12 months' contributions. This would buy her 2,561 shares at 149p. The present value of those shares at today's price

of 269p would be £6,889. When the second scheme matures in 1996, Mrs Adams will have saved £2,250 including a bonus of 15 months' contributions, as the bonus was increased in September 1990. She has an option to buy shares at 232p, so her savings would buy her 969 shares.

Her savings in the third scheme will total £1,500 which will buy her 627 shares at the 239p option price.

Because Abbey's scheme has not been going long enough for contracts to mature, employees have not yet had to make a choice about whether to take their savings or take up the options.

At Emap plc, the newspaper, magazine and exhibition company, the first Save As You Earn scheme matured last year. Those in the first scheme had the option to buy Emap shares at 84.57p

with their matured savings. Shares were actually standing at 233p at the company's year-end on March 31, 1991, more than double the price of the option. An employee who invested the minimum £10 a month would have saved £600, plus a bonus of 14 months' contribution, making a total of £740. This would have bought 875 shares at 84.57p which were now worth £2,038.75.

Using the option to buy the shares was considerably more attractive than taking the savings.

If the same employee had also started a scheme in 1987, saving £740, he or she would have had the option to buy shares at 122p. The savings would have bought 606 shares, which had an actual value of £1,533.18, as the share price at the end of March was 253p.

Emap has found its staff generally keen to take up the option to buy shares rather than taking the money. It saw the biggest take-up for the scheme in 1986, its first year of operation, with numbers dwindling in 1990 as the scheme competed with high interest rates on building society accounts.

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Tax clamp may hit profit-related pay

THOUSANDS of employees could find themselves taking home less in their pay packets if a clampdown by the Inland Revenue on profit-related pay schemes goes ahead, leading accountants have warned.

A growing number of companies operate schemes whereby part of employees' pay depends on the profit made by the company. Employees pay no tax on this part of their income as long as it is less than 20 per cent of pay or £4,000, whichever is the lower. At the end of March 1992, there were 2,600 profit-related pay schemes, with 718,000 individual employees participating.

However, the Inland Revenue was concerned that many companies were using set formulae to determine the amount of the "pool" of pay. These formulae might, for example, introduce banded profits or other business performance measures into the formula to determine the pool. The Revenue an-

nounced at the beginning of last month that planned new practice would "rule out altogether all uses of formulae using unascertained factors" as these make the pay unrelated to profit. Any schemes registered after August 3 would not be allowed to make payments not based on a fixed percentage of, or year on year change in, actual profits.

Britain's six largest chartered accountancy firms met Inland Revenue officials this week to clarify some of the implications of a Revenue statement of practice issued at the beginning of August. Before the meeting, some suggested that companies may no longer want to operate profit-related pay schemes if the Revenue pressed ahead with a ban on certain sorts of scheme. If employees were lucky, any profit-related pay element would be made up but this would be taxable as part of salary, thus reducing take-home pay. Other companies may not be able to raise their fixed costs. Mary Carter, partner at

Coopers & Lybrand, said: "People could find they have less in their pay packet. Companies may not be able to make up net pay because of the recession. Companies are looking to contain costs."

Some employers could be forced to make people redundant if they have to add to their fixed costs rather than base it on profit, she added. "This [the statement] puts companies in quite a difficult position. If fixed payroll costs rise, companies may have to shed staff."

David Marks, partner at Arthur Anderson, said the clampdown would have a "major impact" on companies' flexibility. Many wanted to operate a system of "banded profits" where employees received larger payouts if profits were higher, but the Revenue considered this a formula, he said. The Revenue said the meeting with accounting firms was one of a series on profit-related pay, which had been planned before the statement of practice was issued.

Flight's investment promise comes down to earth

Split capital trusts that took shape in the eighties may disappoint in the nineties, says Rupert Bruce

INVESTORS in many split capital investment trusts are likely to find that the returns on their shares are much less than they were led to expect when they bought them.

At next Wednesday's annual meeting of Fleming International High Income Investment Trust (Flight), which is run by one of the oldest and bluest-chip investment trust houses, shareholders will hear why they are likely to be disappointed. They will also be told why the managers have taken the unusual step of moving 60 per cent of the underlying portfolio out of equities and into fixed-interest investments.

The root of the problem is that many of these complex trusts were designed for the bull stock markets of the 1980s. Today, many have a totally unrealistic capital structure.

The most common split capital trusts have up to three different types of shares. They are called: zero dividend preference, income or ordinary,

and capital. Each of these has different investment characteristics. Broadly speaking, the preference shares have a predetermined right to a set amount of the trust's assets when the trust reaches the end of its set life, while the other shares receive what is left.

Many of the trusts seem likely to meet their obligations to holders of the zero dividend preference shares, but have little left for any other class of shareholder. In the most extreme cases, there is doubt whether even the preference shares will be paid in full.

Flight has two classes of share: zero dividend preference and ordinary. Both were issued at 50p in October 1989. The preference shares are due to be repaid at 117.6p in 1996, when the trust's life ends. The ordinary shares collect all the income generated by the underlying assets and whatever capital is left over.

Flight's managers had hoped the ordinary shareholders would receive at least their

50p of capital back, in addition to a high income. But they calculated last May that the trust's assets would have to grow by 11.7 per cent annually for that to happen. If the assets grow at a more realistic 5 per cent, the ordinary shares will be worth only 19.5p at wind-up.

Yet, when Flight was formed in 1989, its assets needed to grow at only 6.5 per cent for it to pay off the zeros and return 50p to the ordinarys. World stock markets had given capital returns averaging more than 10 per cent for the past decade. Since then, the FTA World Index has fallen in value. Although Flight has beaten that benchmark, its capital value has fallen, too.

Ian Henderson, chairman of Ian Henderson Associates, which manages a trust with similar problems called Exmoor Dual, said: "The big thing that happened was October 1990, when we joined the ERM. And if the government sticks to its guns, which I



Communicator: Christoph Horvay, a Flight manager, plans regular reports on assets

think it will, we will have very different investment criteria in the 1990s from the 1980s." He believes that, in that case, stock markets are likely to provide low returns for the rest of the decade. Flight has

recently taken the unusual step for an investment trust of moving heavily into fixed-interest securities such as bonds. It is presently 60 per cent invested in fixed-interest, although the managers may

lift the exposure to equities in the near future. One of them, Christoph Horvay, who is a director of Fleming Investment Trust Management, is also trying to improve shareholders' understanding of the

trust's different shares. He hopes to do this by explaining what is happening at Wednesday's meeting and by sending out a report every three months.

"We are fairly convinced that some of the shareholders who bought the ordinary shares will not be happy because they will have lost some money," he said. Financial advisers had not warned them about the shares, which were worth 17p last week.

The trust that seems to have the biggest hurdle to overcome in repaying its shareholders is Sphere Investment Trust. Again, it was formed in the late 1980s, but in its case even the holders of zero dividend preference shares seem in danger of being disappointed.

According to County NatWest, the broker, if Sphere's assets grow at a rate of 6.08 per cent between now and October 1995, the trust's maturity date, the capital value of the ordinary income shares will be wiped out. That is a high rate these days, but if the assets grow more slowly than that, even the capital value of the zeros will be eroded.

When Sphere was converted into a split capital trust, in late 1989, the document recom-

mending that shareholders take the new shares assumed annual growth in assets of 5 per cent, 7.5 per cent and 10.0 per cent, when calculating likely returns. None prepared shareholders for the actual performance so far.

At Exmoor Dual, the situation is not so dire, partly because the trust has some time until it matures in 2001. But still, the high predetermined returns of the zeros are eating away at the capital value of the trust's other two types of share: income and ordinary.

Mr Henderson hopes to take action to improve the situation for income and ordinary shareholders. "We are considering various options to improve the prospects for the ordinary shareholders," he said. "They are the ones who are most exposed. But that is very much dependent, I believe, on getting fresh funds which we could then invest to neutralise the zeros."

As if capital erosion were not enough for the ordinary and income shareholders, whose chief return is generally from income, many trusts are having to cut their dividends as the companies they invest in do so.

Rise in premiums for contents insurance is likely

By KAREN WOOLFSON

HOME owners could face yet another punishing rise in contents insurance premiums before the end of the year as insurers pass on some of the cost of a 50 per cent rise in their claims in the last quarter. The Association of British Insurers is expected to announce in its quarterly theft figures next week that the numbers and sizes of claims for domestic break-ins have more than doubled since the beginning of the year, having already jumped about 60 per cent in the first quarter of the year.

So, it is not surprising that insurers try to encourage people to reduce the risk of burglary with discounts for those who take anti-theft measures like burglar alarms. However, people need to balance the benefits of a premium reduction against the expense of installing a possibly unnecessary complex burglar alarm just to meet an insurer's requirements. They could also face persistent burglar alarm salesmen, who prey on the fears of the recently burgled, asking them to buy the most expensive model.

One victim of a burglary in North London was recently quoted £2,500 for the installation of an alarm after being shown pictures of ransacked rooms. The price of an alarm can range from a mere £99 for a comprehensive do-it-yourself variety at Wickes right up to thousands of pounds for the full works from a recognised installer. Expensive systems tend to attract the best home cover discounts.

Royal Insurance offers three discounts on premiums for the contents of one's house. Those in Neighbourhood Watch areas get 10 per cent off their premiums, plus 5 per cent off if the house has an alarm system installed by a member of the National Approval

Council for Security Systems (Nacoss), or 15 per cent off for a Royal Insurance-approved alarm with a maintenance contract and agreed physical security. The cost of installing the latter could be heavy.

ADT Security Systems, which is on Royal's approved list, estimated the cost of an alarm system for a three bedroomed, semi-detached house would be about £1,800. For extra panic buttons, infrared detectors and any other additions, the final bill could be even higher. Bolts and locks cost a further £200.

Chubb supplies the required deadlock for the front door that will set a homeowner back £28, a £34 mortise lock for patio doors, £4.66 for bolts for other unsecured external doors, a £23 lock for sliding patio doors and window locks that cost £17.35 for a pack of four. All these will add to the installation bill.

It may not always be worth trying to get the biggest discount on home cover if the saving in premium is totally absorbed by the cost of an alarm. Some firms will charge less but still quality householders for a discount because they are Nacoss members.

Norwich Union offers 5 per cent off for a Nacoss-approved system, plus 5 per cent for qualifying locks and another 5 per cent for those who are members of a police-approved Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

Someone living in a semi-detached house in north-west London with £20,000 contents insured, will pay £340 annual premium, reduced to £323 with the required locks and £306 with a burglar alarm. In high risk areas, like London SW2 and SW8, Norwich Union insists on a minimum level of security before offering cover and a discount is only available on the alarm.

Cheap dollar starts investment rush

THE rush to invest in dollar-denominated funds and accounts was on this week as investors continued to receive nearly \$2 to the pound (Sara McConnell writes). Some were buying cheap dollars for holidays or purchases in America, while others were gambling that the currency would swing back to its previous level of about \$1.70 later, so giving them a profit.

Fidelity said its offshore money fund had taken \$15 million in the last two weeks. The fund, based in Bermuda,

has funds denominated in 15 important currencies. In one day this week, the group handled 80 investments, totalling £1 million. About half of this was invested in dollars or marks, the other big seller of the week.

Graham Barker, the executive director at Fidelity, said: "Lots of people are going to the States at the moment and seeing good value for money. The dollar could strengthen in the next couple of months."

Fidelity's money fund pays a rate of 2.5 per cent on dollar-denominated investments. No commission is charged for switching from one currency to another. The interest on these funds is allowed to roll up, tax-free, until the money is repatriated to the UK or an investor switches from one currency in the fund to another.

Rothschild Asset Management has seen a 20 per cent increase in investment in its dollar-denominated money fund, based in Guernsey, in the last two weeks. Rothschild has two money funds, both of which have a choice of 18 currency denominations. The Old Court International Fund is an accumulator fund in which income rolls up, while the Old Court Currency Fund pays an income.

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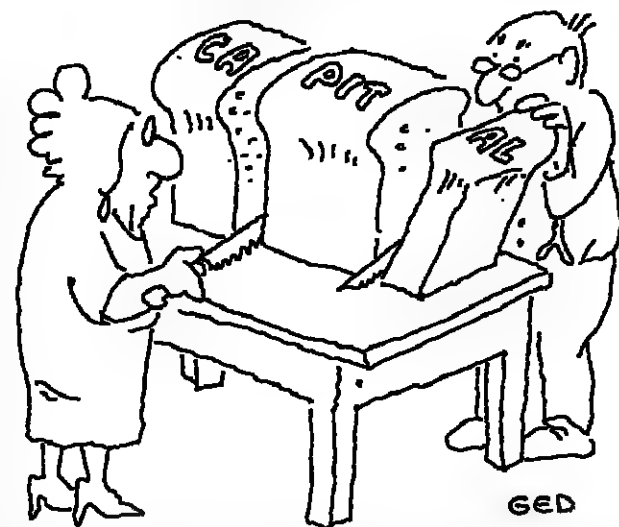
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LETTERS

Making best use of a pensioner's 40% tax allowance

From Mr D. Taylor
Sir, I am writing as a retired professional, now aged 69, but continuing to work as a freelance. Up till now, I have always used my 40 per cent tax exemption on pension contributions (amounting to about £5000 annually), most recently by investing in With Profits Bonds, eg with Scottish Widows and Clerical & Medical.

I read in a recent article that such bonds should be kept for at least five years to be cost effective. While I do not envisage the need for cash in the foreseeable future, I may well be dead before I can draw the benefit from such a pension investment. How would you advise me to use my 40 per cent tax allowance (my total income puts me in the 40 per cent tax bracket) in future years when I shall be 70-plus and hope to be still working. Yours faithfully, D. TAYLOR
78a Compayne Gardens, NW6



of this type of pension arrangement is that there is a limit on the size of the lump sum which can be paid out, determined as a fraction of the value of the funds invested. This means that a large part of any amounts paid into the scheme may effectively be sterilised. Mr Taylor needs to decide whether the desire for tax relief is paramount, or whether he would like to consider other investments, the cost of which is not tax deductible but which leave him greater access to his capital. Examples could include Peps or some types of National Savings.

Assuming that he wishes to stay in pension investments, then it is true that five years does represent the practical minimum period of investment for with-profit policies.

However, most pension policies provide a degree of choice as to the form of investment. It is really a job for an independent pension broker to guide Mr Taylor, but we understand that a unit-linked policy, invested in a cash fund, may be a fairly secure, better short term prospect than a with-profit one. A broker could also advise on the best company to use.

Published replies marked with the logo are by Maurice Parry-Wingfield, technical partner, national tax, at Touche Ross, the accountant, in association with The Times. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

What Mr Taylor should do is identify his investment objectives. At the moment, he is making investments in what appear to be personal pension plans. These give him tax relief on the cost of the premiums, a tax free investment fund, and the right to take a tax free lump sum plus a pension when he reaches retirement. As he is over 50, he can choose to take these benefits at more or less any time but he must take them by the time he is 75. The main drawback

Trying to see the sense in a bank's customer questionnaire

From Mr J. A. Reynolds
Sir, Having, as a long-standing customer of one of the Big Four banks, recently completed a customer questionnaire they sent me, Lindsey Cook's

article on bank surveys (August 22) was of particular interest. The questions were mainly about the attitude and efficiency of the up-front staff, but almost all were really about the management of the branch. I stated on my form that, if I were a branch manager, I would hate to be judged by the customers' answers. In my view the questionnaire was, at least partly, defective.

I think the main reason for this was that it was structured in the form of multiple choice answers, surely very difficult to do successfully, though lovely for computer processing. Thus you couldn't opt for saying the staff were "efficient" unless you could say they were "efficient and (I think) happy". There were several examples of the use of unexplained ambiguous words — "acknowledge" (did the staff acknowledge you?) is

an example — which would be interpreted differently by different people. I was allowed to talk authoritatively about cash dispensers without having to reveal (though in fact I did) that I never used them for drawing cash. The manager was required to be easily accessible to all his customers — is this practical? Assistant managers were not even mentioned, far less personal bankers. Central queuing systems and their implications were not allowed for.

The Qs and As did not reflect the situation that in a medium-sized branch it is unlikely you will be served by the same cashier very often. Surely the questioners were not thinking of the times long ago when, if you chose, you could indeed be always served by the same (exclusively male) cashier who would know you by name and very likely say "Good morning, Mr X. Lovely day, isn't it? And what can I do for you today?"

I was flattered to be asked, but came away thinking (and hoping) it was no more than a public relations exercise. After the article I am not so sure. And I still do not know how to take the question (or was it an answer?) "Could the staff be better dressed?" But I have never been a bank employee. Yours faithfully, J. A. REYNOLDS
45 Southfield Avenue, Weymouth, Dorset.

Worry of dipping into capital

From Dr Valerie Goldberg
Sir, Thank you for sticking up for pensioners and others on a fixed income in your recent comment.

Even if "real" interest rates are at an historically high level, if they are having to withdraw capital to live, they don't just feel poor, they feel desperately worried, and never forget that for that generation, "dipping into capital" was as heinous a crime as "getting into debt". They will be all the more concerned to cut back expenditure on unnecessary or luxury items while this situation lasts.

About the point that the cost of living index as published does not truly reflect the concerns of pensioners, since it includes many items they don't on the whole buy, I understand that a "pensioner's index" is also calculated, but I have never seen any details of it. Is that because the true facts about the rise in the cost of ordinary day-to-day items (presumably excluding luxuries) is too shocking to be revealed? Perhaps you could follow this up.

Yours faithfully, VALERIE GOLDBERG,
6 Hollycroft Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex.

Harrods shopping

From Mr J. N. Maltby
Sir, I recently settled my monthly account with Harrods but my cheque arrived ten days after the due date. They therefore claim interest arises. The balance of account was £64 and the interest charged was £5.70.

I calculate this represents an APR of 325 per cent. Is this a record?

Yours truly, J. N. MALTBY, CBE,
Chairman, United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority,
4-12 Regent Street, SW1Y 4PE.

INTEREST RATES

	Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	40%	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
BANKS						
Ordinary Dep A/c	2.83	2.66	2.12	none/min	7 day	
Fixed Term Deposits:						
Barclays	6.54	6.34	5.47	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-426 1567
	6.58	6.38	5.58	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-426 1567
	6.55	6.35	5.55	2,500-no max	1 mth	Local Branch
Lloyds	6.58	6.38	5.51	10,000-no max	1 mth	0742 528555
Midland	6.60	6.40	5.44	10,000-no max	3 mth	0742 528555
Northwest	6.47	6.27	5.18	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-728 1000
	6.75	6.55	5.40	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-728 1000

HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS

	Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	40%	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
Bank of Scotland MRC	6.49	6.29	5.34	2,500	none	031-442 7777
Barclays	6.54	6.34	5.47	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-426 1567
Prime Life	6.03	5.83	4.10	2,500	none	0804 252861
Co-operative	1.50	1.51	1.21	1,000	none	071 825 6543
Ulster	4.88	4.68	3.90	1,000	none	021 985 3076
Globebank	1.58	1.59	1.21	1,000	none	0274 523272
Lloyds MRC	3.89	3.82	3.14	2,000	none	0742 528555
Midland MRC	3.94	4.00	3.20	500	none	0800 200 400
Special Reserve	4.50	4.58	3.68	500	none	031-556 8555
Royal Bank of Scotland A/c	4.31	4.31	3.45	2,000	none	071-800 8000
TSB Bank						
MCA						

BUILDING SOCIETIES

	Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	40%	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary Share A/c	2.70	2.03	1.62	1+	none	
Best buy — largest socs:						
Barclays	7.50	7.30	6.34	2,000 min	Postal	
Bristol & West	7.50	7.30	6.30	25,000 min	30 day	
Northampton	7.58	7.38	6.08	40,000 min	30 day	
Shropshire	6.45	6.08	5.08	50,000 min	30 day	
Bradford & Bingley	7.58	7.38	6.30	30,000 min	1 year	
Best buy — all socs:						
The Southdown	7.50	7.30	6.00	250 min	Postal	
Northampton	7.58	7.38	6.08	40,000 min	30 day	
Northampton	6.08	6.08	6.45	50,000 min	60 day	
National Counties	7.73	7.73	6.18	20,000 min	90 day	
Farmers	6.03	6.03	6.42	50,000 min	1 year	
Cash/Cheque Accounts:						
Wells	2.00	1.80	1.50	50 min	Rate rise	
Albion & Lloyds	2.44	2.44	1.85	35 min	With larger	
Cash Plus	1.88	1.88	1.80	1 min	balance	
Nationwide						
First						

NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	40%	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c	8.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 day	041-648-4555
Investment A/c	8.25	6.19	4.95	5-25,000	1 mth	041-648-4555
Income Bond	9.25	6.94	5.55	1,000-25,000	3 mth	0253 98161
First Post Bond	7.50	7.25	6.50	1,000-25,000	041-648-4555	
S&S Income Cert	7.50	7.50	7.50	25-5,000	8 day	091-888 4800
Yearly Plan	7.50	7.50	7.50	20-40,000	14 day	091-888 4800
Child's Bond	10.10	10.10	10.10	25-1,000		
Can Ext Bond	5.01	5.01	5.01			
Capital Bond	10.00	7.50	6.00	100-100,000	8 days	041-648-4555

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

	Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	40%	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
Alco	6.80	6.80	7.48	80,000 min	1 yr	Figures from
General Portfolio	6.70	6.70	7.40	80,000 min	2 yr	041-648-4555
Prosperity	6.76	6.76	7.40	85,000 min	3 yr	Vare
Financial Assurance	6.85	6.85	7.37	5,000 min	4 yr	071 404 5768
Lawson Life	6.85	6.85	7.36	50,000 min	5 yr	for details

	Nominal rate	Compounded at 25%	40%	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
RPI July 91-92	4.37%					
Bank Rate Rate	10%					
Personal Loan	14%					
Credit Card	18.5-20%					
Holiday rates						
Spanish Penalties						178.00
French Penalties						8.40
Swiss Unofficial						339.00
Italian Lire						215.00

1.2% for balances below £200, 1% for 270 of interest tax free, interest subject to withdrawal of £100 of cash. 2. Conditional holding up to £10,000 for investors reviewing process of ending matured certificates. 3. Year 100. 4. Interest payable gross 24-hour rates for larger sums. 5. No longer on sale.

Compiled by KAREN BUCKLEY

CAPITAL GAINS TAX ALLOWANCE, JULY 1992

Indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in July 1992

Month purchased	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
January	—	0.690	0.588	0.622	0.422	0.386
February	—	0.673	0.582	0.610	0.437	0.382
March	0.747	0.670	0.587	0.486	0.433	0.380
April	0.747	0.713	0.586	0.484	0.421	0.383
May	0.701	0.640	0.560	0.458	0.419	0.382
June	0.696	0.638	0.558	0.455	0.419	0.382
July	0.695	0.627	0.558	0.457	0.425	0.383
August	0.695	0.628	0.549	0.454	0.419	0.382
September	0.686	0.619	0.540	0.454	0.419	0.382
October	0.687	0.607	0.531	0.452	0.410	0.349
November	0.679	0.602	0.526	0.477	0.388	0.342
December	0.682	0.597	0.527	0.446	0.388	0.344
1988		1989	1990	1991	1992	
January	0.344	0.250	0.162	0.098	0.024	
February	0.338	0.242	0.155	0.090	0.018	
March	0.338	0.238	0.149	0.088	0.018	
April	0.312	0.214	0.110	0.043	0.000	
May	0.307	0.207	0.100	0.040	0.000	
June	0.302	0.203	0.096	0.035	0.000	
July	0.301	0.202	0.095	0.037		
August	0.286	0.196	0.084	0.035		
September	0.280	0.190	0.073	0.031		
October	0.288	0.181	0.065	0.027		
November	0.282	0.171	0.068	0.024		
December	0.288	0.165	0.068	0.023		

The 1st month for disposals by individuals on or after April 6, 1985 (April 1, 1985 for companies) is the month in which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1984 where the expenditure was incurred before that month.

Portfolio PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of The Times this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 25).

Rank	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st
1	+0	+5	+2	+6	+7																										
2	+0	+1	+1	+7	+8																										
3	+0	+3	+1	+9	+8																										
4	+0	+5	+2	+5	+7																										
5	+0	+4	+1	+8	+6																										
6	+0	+1	+1	+6	+8																										
7	+0	+1	+3	+5	+7																										
8	+0	+6	+8	+4	+7																										
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18	+0	+0	+1	+8	+4																										
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26	+0	+3	+2	+9	+4																										
27	+0	+4	+4	+4	+6																										
28	+0	+0	+1	+5	+9																										
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38	+0	+2	+3	+5	+8																										
39	+0	+4	+1	+7	+6																										
40	+0	+1	+3	+4	+6																										
41	+0	+5	+2	+4	+7																										
42	+0	+4	+2	+4	+7																										
43	+0	+1	+3	+6	+9																										
44	+0	+1	+1	+6	+8																										

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this card for the week and check against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have your eighth share of the total weekly price money added. If you do, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always give your card available when claiming. (Share rules appear on the back of your card.)

No.	Company	Group	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1	Blue Circle	Building, Rtd	1.12	0.05	4.5	11.6
2	Broken Hill	Industrial	1.12	0.05	4.5	11.6
3	Asa New Z	Banking, Rtd	1.12	0.05	4.5	11.6
4	Asa New Z	Banking, Rtd	1.12	0.05	4.5	11.6
5	Asa New Z	Banking, Rtd	1.12	0.05	4.5	11.6
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© Times Newspapers Ltd. Total

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £3,000 in today's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN

Mrs Rita Cook, of Dalry, Dumfries and Galloway, was the winner of yesterday's £4,000 Portfolio Platinum prize.

1992 High Low Company Price Div Yld P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

317 340 Abbey Nat 357 -10 0.3 5.2 12.2

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Drab finish to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began August 24. Dealings ended yesterday. Settlement day September 14. Forward buyings are permitted on two previous business days. Prices reported are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1992 High Low Company Price Div Yld P/E

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

		MONEY MARKETS			
Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 92.4 (day's range 92.4-92.7)					
		STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES			
		Mid Rates for Sep 4	Range	Close	
1	0325	Amersterdam	3.1465-3.1796	3.1567-3.1604	1 month 3 month
0	1911	Bremen	57.61-58.28	57.61-57.78	1 st apr 3 rd apr
3	9352	Copenhagen	10.670-10.9350	10.671-10.9350	2 nd apr 3 rd apr
4	4146	Dublin	1.0581-1.0678	1.0587-1.0678	1 st apr 2 nd apr
7	117	Frankfurt	7.7923-8.2911	7.7923-7.7958	9 th apr 2 nd apr
2	560	Geneva	244.30-246.92	244.30-245.00	9 th apr 2 nd apr
7	3094	Madrid	181.60-183.12	181.60-182.00	43 rd apr 13 th apr
4	14219	Milan	2131.50-2161.10	2139.50-2142.40	13 th apr 32 nd apr
1	2410	Moscow	3.3609-2.1907	3.3609-2.1907	1.04-0.99 apr 2 nd apr
1	7161	New York	1.9990-1.9950	1.9910-1.9920	1.08-1.07 apr 3 rd apr
1	92	Oslo	11.0310-11.1240	11.0650-11.0820	2 nd apr 6 th apr
1	11835	Paris	9.05-10.0365	9.05-10.0365	2 nd apr 1 st apr
0	2368	Stockholm	10.2170-10.2310	10.2280-10.2440	4 th apr 11 th apr
0	7161	Tokyo	245.09-246.92	245.09-246.92	1 st apr 2 nd apr
1	111	Vienna	9.65-10.92	9.65-10.92	1 st apr 2 nd apr
1	992	Zurich	2.4064-3.5285	2.4997-2.5030	1 st apr 1 st apr
		Premiums - pr. Obscure - ds.			
		OTHER STERLING			
1	11835	Argentina peso	1.9768-1.9799		
0	2368	Australia dollar	1.7653-1.7485		
		DOLLAR SPOT RATES			
1	11835	Australia		1.3840-1.3850	

Bahrain dollar	0.741/0.750	Belgium (Com)	28.90/20.00
Bahri cruzeiro *	(033) 8/- (0357) 3/-	Canada	1.1970/1.1975
Cypriot pound	0.90/-0.91 1/2	Denmark	2.4700/5.43015
Finland mark	n/a	France	4.7590/4.7690
Green dinar	348.27/351.3	Germany	2.4015/2.4015
Hong Kong dollar	15.44/20.15.4530	Hong Kong	7.1290/7.1290
India rupee	55.75/56.40	Ireland	1.0000/1.0000
Kuwait c.d.s. KD	0.573/0.574	Israel	106.0/-107.0/-
Malaysia ringgit	4.9850/4.9899	Japan	123.25/-123.35
Mexico peso	603.56/1.135	Malaysia	2.2450/2.2460
New Zealand dollar	3.0083/-3.0071	Netherlands	1.7470/1.7500
Saudi Arabia riyal	7.3715/7.4585	Norway	5.5425/5.5525
Singapore dollar	3.1908/-3.1945	Portugal	122.00/-122.50
S. Africa rand (f.)	4.4301/4.5061	Singapore	2.3970/-2.3985
S. Africa rand (com)	4.5782/5.4851	Spain	91.25/91.25
U.S. & E. Arabian	2.1715/2.3035	Sweden	5.1240/5.1250
Baroque Bank <i>GTS * Liquid Bank</i>		Switzerland	1.5250/1.5250

MONEY RATES (%)					
Base Rates: Clearing Banks 10			Finance Rise 10:		
Discount Market Loans: Overnight high: 9%			Low 8		
Treasury Bills (104-day): 2 mth 9 1/4; 3 mth 9 1/4			Week fixed: 9%		
Prime Bank Bills (Disk):	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Selling Money Rates:	10 1/2-9 1/4	10 1/2-10 1/4	10 1/2-10 1/4	10 1/2-10 1/4	10 1/2-10 1/4
Interbank:	10 1/2-10	10 1/2-10 1/4	10 1/2-10 1/4	10 1/2-10 1/4	10 1/2-10 1/4
Overnight open 9% close 8					
Local Authority Depos:	9 1/4	11 1/4	10 1/4	10 1/4	10 1/4
Savings:	10 1/4	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2
Dollar CDs:	3.10-3.10	n/a	3.10-3.10	3.14-3.14	3.22-3.18
Building Society CDs:	10-10	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2

TREASURY BILLS: Auction: £1.430M allotted: £200M: Bids: 197.40% received: 6%
 Last week: 197.55% received: 60%; Average next: 19.567% last wk 19.667% tax cut will 19.667%
 1500m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEBITS (%)					
Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Deutschmark:	9 1/2	9 1/2	9 1/2	9 1/2	9 1/2
French Franc:	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2
Swiss Franc:	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
Yen:	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)					
Bullion: Open \$341.30-341.70 Close \$341.40-341.90 High \$342.75-343.25					
Low \$340.00-340.50 Kruggerand: \$340.75-342.75 (£171.00-172.00)					
Sovereigns: End \$79.75-81.75 (£40.00-41.00) New \$80.00-82.00 (£40.25-41.25)					

Fairy-tale result for Leicestershire cannot be ruled out in NatWest Trophy final

Lamb can quit captaincy on high note

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

ALLAN Lamb could give a final twist to his enigmatic summer at Lord's today. On the ground where, a fortnight ago, he claims to have spotted the Pakistanis performing murky deeds on the march ball, lifting the NatWest Trophy is likely to be his last act as captain of Northamptonshire.

Returning from a two-match suspension for his un-sentimental and, he protests, unpaid accusations of cheating, Lamb leads his side against unfashionable, unfanciable Leicestershire.

The bookmakers regard it as a no-contest and so, apparently, does the public. For the first time in more than 20 years of over-subscribed finals, Lord's has been busy not in turning away potential ticket-buyers but in fielding an unprecedented number of returns. About 1,500 tickets, priced at £35 and £40, will be on sale at the gates this morning, but what is a lean day for the tourists need not be a wasted one for the crowd.

There is much to intrigue the neutral in this final, not least what the fates have in store for Lamb, variously portrayed in recent days as a fearless defender of cricketing morals and an opportunist mercenary. Having played in four cup finals for the club and lost them all, Lamb might be thought due for a change of luck. His batting, certainly,

should have a heavy influence today and it will be intriguing, given the mixed reaction to his tabloid revelations, to hear the reception he receives when he marches out.

Lamb insists he plans to see out the remaining two years of his contract with the club he joined in 1978, but he is making no such statements about the captaincy. It is not impossible that the matter will be taken out of his hands by the committee, but the likeliest scenario is that he will opt to go out in a blaze of glory, given the right result today.

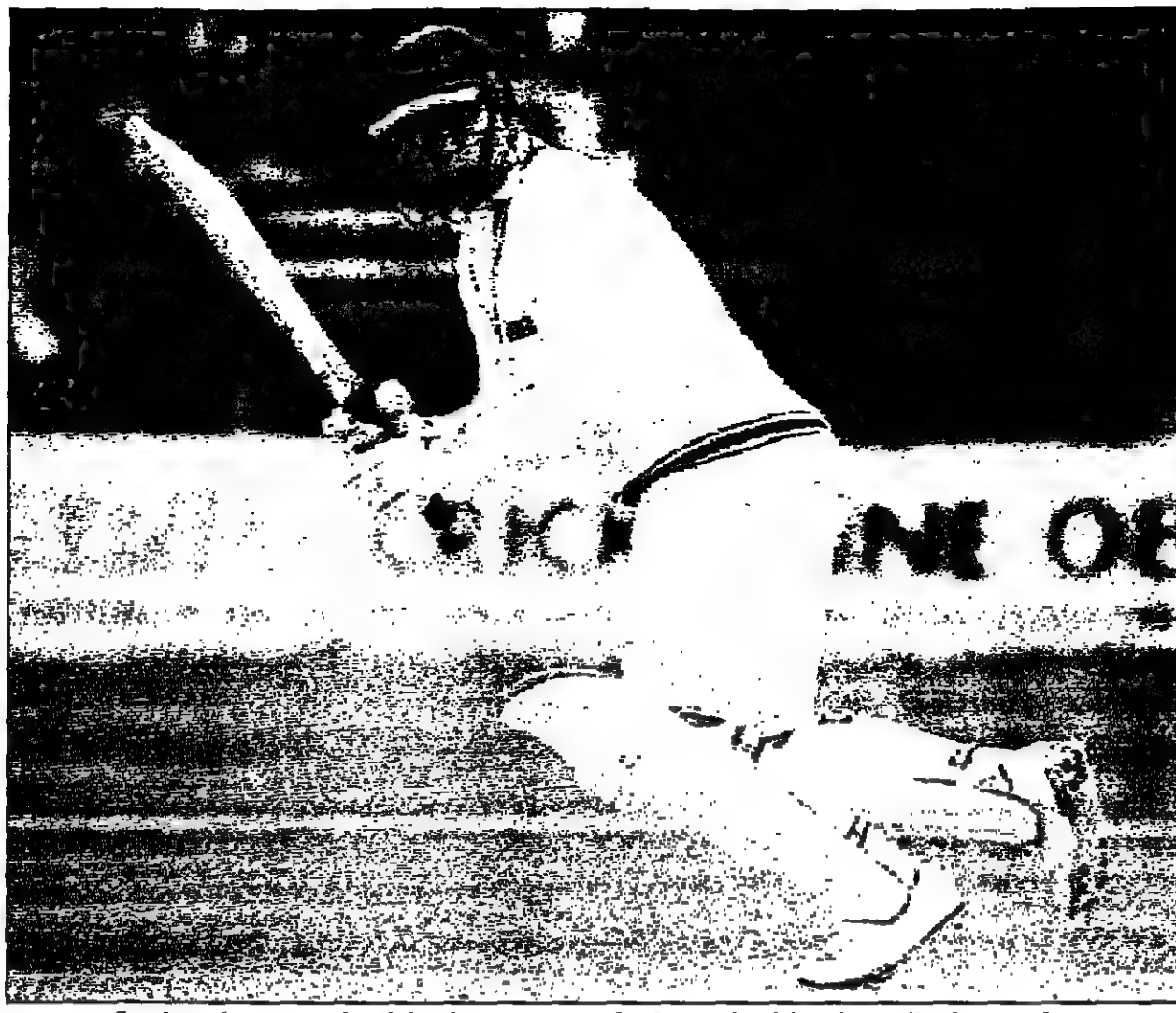
In his fourth season as captain, Lamb has yet to win anything but, even if he continues in the job, he would get no better chance than this. Northamptonshire, on paper, are overwhelmingly the more impressive side, fielding six internationals against Leicestershire's two, with accomplished batting down to No. 8 and an attack which could hardly be better balanced.

Much the same, however, was said of Essex before they contrived to lose their semi-final at Leicester. All summer long, in fact, Nigel Briers' side has been confounding us and the fairy-tale ending, in what is Leicestershire's first 60-over final, cannot be discounted.

In his first season as coach, Jack Birkenshaw has already achieved a great deal more than his predecessor, Bob Simpson, who returned to Australia to the thinly disguised relief of various players and, in particular, of Mike Turner, the club's chief executive.

Very much the voice of Grace Road, Turner had head-hunted Simpson, only to discover there was an irreconcilable clash of personalities and ideals. With Birkenshaw, a former player now in the job he craved for years, the relationship has been smooth and the results unarguable. With a shoestring squad, conspicuous for its lack of big names, Birkenshaw and Briers have achieved marvels, even briefly threatening Essex at the head of the county championship.

For all the improbable success, though, Turner reports that a third consecutive financial loss is likely, a reflection of the recession, which is also largely responsible for the club sending back 1,000 unsold



Consistently conservative: Briers has grown out of trying too hard, but the application remains

Late-blossoming Briers ready to collect fruit of his labours

BY IVO TENNANT

"I am bitterly disappointed by that, having been involved in five previous finals for which we were heavily over-subscribed," Turner said.

"But I must say there has been a local resistance to the high pricing of the tickets. If a man wanted to take along his wife and two children, and bought the top-priced tickets, his day out would cost at least £200."

Leicestershire's other disappointment this morning is likely to be the need to rule out David Mills. After five weeks of inactivity with a stress-fractured foot, the prospective England fast bowler is not match fit. He is included in the squad of 13 which travelled south by coach yesterday, but it seems likely his overs will be split between Laurie Potter and Justin Benson, a prospect to make Lamb's hungry eyes light up.

Ray Illingworth was Leicestershire's captain in that summer of 1971, and not a man of fanciful whims. Even when Briers was still uncapped nine years later, he nominated him as his batsman for the 1980s. There was something about the application, the cover-drive influenced by Colin Cowdrey's straight bat, the conservative appearance that was not at all modified by sharing a dressing room with David Gower.

Yet, if ever an individual has proved the truth of Cowdrey's adage that an English batsman does not reach maturity until the age of 30, it has been Briers. "In the last few years, I have played better than at any time in my career, especially in 1990, when I was four runs

short of making 2,000 in the season," he says.

"If I was 16 again, I would have more chance of playing for England now that A tours have been introduced. My problem in my twenties was one of concentration—I used to try too hard and would come in for lunch with a splitting headache."

Briers, now 37, is by no means the oldest player in county cricket, and yet only Phil Carrik has been playing for longer. Among the Cambridge University opposition that April of 1971 were Majid Khan, Phil Edmunds and Mike Selvey. Yet no one made a greater impression on Briers than Illingworth, then the captain of England.

It was the start of an enduring friendship. Illingworth was swift to recognise that Briers would become a captain of Leicestershire. He had, after all, led Leicester Schools and England Schools and later would captain Young England and British Colleges. "Ray was very shrewd and his professional discipline left quite an impression on me, not least when I became captain of Leicestershire two years ago. "I wanted players to be on time, to look smart. If there were sponsors around, I wanted blazers to be put on at lunchtime. We were not a side full of stars—it was a big disappointment to me that David Gower and Chris Lewis

left—and that meant we had to extract the maximum from those who remained," he said.

"So this season, Winston Benjamin, our overseas player, has bowled uphill into the wind. He has been prepared to do so for the benefit of the side, so that David Mills could have the best end."

"Jack Birkenshaw, our manager, has excelled at recruitment. Signing Vince Wells and Phil Robinson was a coup. And we are finishing high up the championship table as well as being in the NatWest final."

Briers has, he says, enjoyed his cricket more since becoming Leicestershire's captain. For guidance, he still seeks out Illingworth and leans on Whitaker, his vice-captain and closest friend in the game. They have both had their fill of lean times, lack of support, dressing-room disruptions. For that alone, they are deserving of success.

Then for Briers, it will be back to school. For the past 12 years, he has taught physical education and history at Ludgrove, a rather more fashionable institution than Leicestershire CCC.

His pupils at the prep school now include his elder son and Prince William— "a smashing lad," Prince Harry starts this term. It is where Briers's long-term future lies, but first there is a trophy or two to be won for a county in need of them more than most.

GOLF

Dredge digs deep to beat Stanford on his way to final

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WALES and Scotland, nations with contrasting records in the Amateur championship, provide today's finalists at Carnoustie, where Bradley Dredge meets Stephen Dundas over 36 holes.

The past 12 years have brought rich reward for Wales, with Stephen Dodd, Philip Parkin, Duncan Evans and Dredge's coach, Paul Mayo, all winning the title. The Scots, by comparison, have not had a victory to boast since Reid Jack's 1957 win.

Dundas, uncapped and only 18 years old, therefore can end 35 years of frustration for Scotland. It would be a remarkable first success in the senior ranks.

His progress yesterday was unequivocal. Against the American, Michael Meehan, and the Scottish champion, Stephen Gallacher, Dundas held the whip hand throughout, winning by margins of 3 and 1 and 4 and 3 respectively.

Dredge was no less convincing. He too was never behind in his two matches, advancing to the final at the expense of Lee Westwood, of Woking, by one hole, and then Mathew Stanford, the highly-regarded Salford player.

The manner of Stanford's quarter-final defeat of fellow England international Ian Garbutt had suggested that he was the one to watch among the remaining quartet.

His three-under par to the turn in a testing wind was an

outstanding effort. It was Dredge, though, who called the tune in his semi-final. Matching par on the way out was good enough for a four-hole lead. There was no apparent chunk in Dredge's armour for Stanford to attack. Only once, at the 14th, did he better par, and Dredge matched him with a birdie.

Dundas also led by four after eight holes of his semi-final against the Ryder Cup captain's young nephew. But, having escaped from so many tight spots both this week and when winning the Scottish crown, Gallacher remained a cheery soul.

On this occasion, though, there was no way back. Despite having his lead trimmed around the turn, the bespectacled Dundas refused to submit and a run of three gains from the 13th proved decisive.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: S. Gallacher (Scotland) bt M. Meehan (Ireland) 3 and 2; S. Dundas (Scotland) bt M. Meehan (Ireland) 3 and 2; S. Dundas (Scotland) bt S. Gallacher (Scotland) 4 and 3; S. Dundas (Scotland) bt S. Gallacher (Scotland) 4 and 3.

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Isao Aoki, the only Japanese player to win the US PGA Tour, will set off in his first senior tour event next week.

"I am eager to participate in the competition of the Senior PGA Tour," Aoki, who will take part in the First of America Classic, said.

"I have heard good things about Grand Rapids as the place to begin." (Agencies)

Montgomerie has his due reward

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN CRANS SUR STIERRE, SWITZERLAND

COLIN Montgomerie proved himself a man of the mountains yesterday when he produced a late run of birdies in a blitz to complete a disjointed second round of 70 in the Canon European Masters here.

In vile conditions, Montgomerie somehow finished three, three, three, two, four, for a total of 133, 11 under par, three shots ahead of Mats Lanner, who had also completed 36 holes (only 54 players managed that), and of Jose Rivero, who had played one solitary, soggy hole. Montgomerie had started at the 10th some eight hours and 20 minutes before he rolled in his ten-foot birdie putt at the ninth.

"I couldn't really see the hole," he said, "and I don't know how the ball crept in. I was in a bit of a hole after bogeys at the 3rd and 4th, which put me three over for the day, and those five birdies in a row got me out of it."

Left to himself, Montgomerie would have trudged in from the 9th tee when the siren sounded to suspend play for the third and last time. However, one of his playing partners was Ian Woosnam, not a noted advocate of rising at six in the morning to complete unfinished rounds of golf.

And playing on proved to be the Scotsman's advantage as he took his four and the Welshman took six, to complete the nine in 41, five over.

PARALYMPIC GAMES

British open their hunt for medals

Barcelona: Ian Hayden won Britain's first medal of the Paralympic Games here yesterday, taking the silver in the F6 shot-put (Alix Ramsay writes). Hayden won two golds and a silver in Seoul in the three throwing events but four years ago he was competing as a standing athlete although he has a spinal injury.

Since then his medical condition deteriorated and doctors advised him to compete in a wheelchair if he was to continue as an athlete. Hayden, 44, threw 9.26 metres in the fifth round yesterday before withdrawing with an arm injury. Terry Pickinpaugh, of the US, set a world record of 10.80 metres for the gold. Britain won gold, silver and bronze in the S2 50 metre freestyle swimming. Peter Hull sliced more than three seconds off his own world record to take the gold in 1min 9.28sec, ahead of the Scots, James Anderson and Alan McGregor.

Millar may move against non-selection

Following Robert Millar's non-selection for the world road cycling championship in Benidorm tomorrow, his solicitors are studying options for possible legal action against officials of the British Cycling Federation.

Johan Museeuw, the Belgium champion, will miss the championship after a fall.

Close thing

Squash rackets England narrowly failed to feature in both finals of the Singapore open championships when Sue Wright beat Robyn Lambourne, of Australia, in the semi-finals yesterday and Simon Parke led Brett Martin, of Australia, 2-1 on games, only to lose the fourth, 17-14.

Postponement

Boxing: The WBA flyweight championship bout between the champion, Kim Yong-kang, of South Korea, and Aquiles Guzman, of Venezuela, has been postponed.

NATWEST TROPHY AVERAGES

Leicestershire — Batting and fielding									
	M	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50s	Wkts	BB
P. E. Robinson	4	1	147	88	36.75	1	2	—	—
L. Potter	4	1	79	41	35.50	—	—	—	—
J. D. B. Benson	4	1	78	42	36.00	—	—	—	—
J. J. Whisker	4	1	151	82	37.75	—	—	—	—
N. E. Briers	4	1	144	86	36.00	—	—	—	—
P. A. Norton	4	1	50	32	25.00	—	—	—	—
S. F. Smith	2	0	50	46	25.00	—	—	—	—
J. J. B. Benson	3	0	73	31	24.33	—	—	—	—
V. J. Wells	3	1	27	21	18.00	—	—	—	—
W. K. M. Benjamin	4	1	28	24	9.33	—	—	—	—
G. J. Parsons	3	0	8	8	4.00	—	—	—	—
A. D. Mullaly	4	2	1	1	1.00	—	—	—	—
D. J. Mills	2	1	29	29	—	—	—	—	—
J. P. Agnew	1	0	0	0	—	—	—	—	—
Bowling									
	O	M	R	W	Ave	BB	50s	100s	Wkts
D. J. Mills	18	3	101	8	12.62	2-22	—	—	—
W. K. M. Benjamin	28	5	108	8	13.50	1-22	—	—	—
V. J. Wells	22	3	72	8	9.00	2-18	—	—	—
A. D. Mullaly	40	4	145	7	20.71	2-22	—	—	—
J. D. B. Benson	19	1	84	2	42.00	—	—	—	—
G. J. Parsons	13	3	51	2	25.50	—	—	—	—
J. P. Agnew	12	2	31	1	31.00	1-11	—	—	—
L. Potter	35	1	119	2	59.50	1-32	—	—	—

Compiled by Richard Laskwood

Northamptonshire — Batting and fielding									
	M	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50s	Wkts	BB
R. J. Bailey	4	1	147	88	36.75	1	2	—	—
K. M. Carr	4	1	130	78	32.50	—	—	—	—
D. J. Capel	4	1	138	72	34.50	—	—	—	—
A. Fordham	4	1	138	72	34.50	—	—	—	—
A. J. Lamb	4	1	128	66	32.00	—	—	—	—
N. A. Farnham	4	1	122	58	30.50	—	—	—	—
A. L. Pennington	3	0	81	36	27.00	—	—	—	—
C. E. L. Ambrose	4	1	12	12	12.00	—	—	—	—
D. P. Riley	4	1	12	12	12.00	—	—	—	—
J. E. B. Smith	4	1	1	1	1.00	—	—	—	—
N. G. S. Cook	2	0	0	0	0.00	—	—	—	—
A. R. Roberts	1	0	0	0	0.00	—	—	—	—
A. Walker	1	0	0	0	0.00	—	—	—	—
J. P. Taylor	0	0	0	0	0.00	—	—	—	—
Bowling									
	O	M	R	W	Ave	BB	50s	100s	Wkts
C. E. L. Ambrose	30.5	5	147	8	18.37	4-7	—	—	—
K. M. Carr	36	2	112	12	9.33	3-33	—	—	—
J. P. Taylor	37	7	112	8	14.00	3-41	—	—	—
M. A. Farnham	36	3	108	8	13.50	2-21	—	—	—
A. L. Pennington	18	1	81	3	27.00	—	—	—	—
A. R. Roberts	12	0	23	1	23.00	—	—	—	—
N. G. S. Cook	16	0	52	1	52.00	—	—	—	—
N. A. Farnham	1	0	20	0	20.00	—	—	—	—
R. J. Bailey	13	2	31	1	31.00	—	—	—	—
A. Walker	10	1	46	0	—	—	—	—	—

Source: TCBS/Bat

Ranatunga gamble pays

Colombo: Sri Lanka took a 2-0 lead in the three-match one-day series against Australia with a five-wicket win at the Khetarama stadium here. Spearheaded by Aravinda de Silva and Chandika Hathurusinghe, they won with seven balls to spare.

Arjuna Ranatunga, who won the toss for a fourth consecutive time, was rewarded for his gamble in sending Australia in to bat on a perfect

batting strip. Sri Lanka made 194 for five in 42.5 overs after Australia were restricted to 216 for seven in 50 overs. Their target was revised to 191 after a reduction of six overs due to rain.

After a 71-run opening stand between Roshan Mahanama and Hathurusinghe, de Silva rescued Sri Lanka after they had lost two wickets for six runs. Hathurusinghe, the man of the match, came back to hit the winning run after retiring hurt on 48.

Wellington: Dion Nash, a university student, is a surprising inclusion in the New Zealand squad to tour Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka in October.

PARTY: M. D. Crow (capt), B. Haydon, R. Latham, M. Greenbush, A. Jones, K. Rutherford, C. Carr, C. Harris, D. Patel, A. Piro, G. Latham, M. L. Smith, D. K. Morrison, W. Williams, D. Nash.

Testes Festival Trophy

Nottinghamshire v Hampshire

SCARBOROUGH (Hampshire won toss) Hampshire beat Nottinghamshire by nine wickets.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE										
P. R. Pollard	C	W	B	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50s	Wkts	
M. A. Carr	C	W	B	147	88	36.75	1	2	—	
D. J. Capel	C	W	B	138	72	34.50	—	—	—	
A. Fordham	C	W	B	138	72	34.50	—	—	—	
A. J. Lamb	C	W	B	128	66	32.00	—	—	—	
N. A. Farnham	C	W	B	122	58	30.50	—	—	—	
A. L. Pennington	C	W	B	81	36	27.00	—	—	—	
C. E. L. Ambrose	C	W	B	12	12	12.00	—	—	—	
D. P. Riley	C	W	B	12	12	12.00	—	—	—	
J. E. B. Smith	C	W	B	1	1	1.00	—	—	—	
N. G. S. Cook	C	W	B	0	0	0.00	—	—	—	
A. R. Roberts	C	W	B	0	0	0.00	—	—	—	
A. Walker	C	W	B	0	0	0.00	—	—	—	
J. P. Taylor	C	W	B	0	0	0.00	—	—	—	
Total (5 f50, w 1)										
Total (5 f50, w 50 overs)					238					
D. P. Bennett, R. A. Pick, M. H. Field-Sues and J. A. Afford					did not bat					
50s: 2, 5, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 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Taylor turns to his back catalogue for Bardsley

BY CLIVE WHITE

GRAHAM Taylor, the England manager, turned to one of his Watford old boys yesterday when he selected David Bardsley, the Queen's Park Rangers right back, to fill the vacancy caused by Rob Jones's withdrawal from the squad for the match against Spain in Sunderland on Wednesday.

The big break for Bardsley has come late in his career — he will be 28 next Friday — and it is the second time that he has Taylor to thank for it, the former Watford manager having picked him from the relative obscurity of Blackpool nine years ago for £150,000.

Bardsley's career seemed to be on the descent when, after Watford's withdrawal, he left to join Oxford United. Rangers gave him the opportunity to play at the highest level again and Taylor was at Loftus Road on Wednesday to see how well he has responded.

"Like everyone at QPR, he has started off the season well and I was impressed when I saw him against Arsenal in midweek," Taylor said.

The England manager had rewarded the good form of Les Ferdinand, the Rangers forward on Thursday when he added him to his standby list after Ian Wright's withdrawal. All it needs now is for Taylor to recognise the contribution of Rangers's Ray Wilkins.

The player likely to benefit most from Jones's misfortune, however, is Lee Dixon, of Arsenal, who is poised to regain the No. 2 shirt he last wore in Poland ten months ago.

Taylor's first thoughts, however, were for the Liverpool player who seemed to have overtaken everyone in the pecking order with a remarkably mature debut against France last February, only to miss the European championship when he fell victim to the shin splints condition which incapacitated him now.

"It will be a big disappointment for the lad," Taylor said. Jones is, however, expected to play against Chelsea at Anfield today before going into hospital next week for an

operation that will keep him out for four to six weeks.

Bardsley, an England youth international, travelled with the combined senior and B squad to Moscow last April.

"That's the advantage of the B team programme," Taylor said. "Even though people have not always played, they have the experience of being in an international squad."

Whereas Taylor's omissions have been largely of necessity, Javier Clemente, his opposite number in Spain, has chosen to leave out Emilio Butragueño and Manuel Sanchis, two notable individuals from Real Madrid, which is a reflection on the great club's sagging fortunes.

"I picked the ones I think are looking best for this match," Spain's new coach said.

Nell Heaney, of Arsenal, and Andrew Cole, once of Arsenal, now of Bristol City, have also had to pull out of the England under-21 side to play Spain in Burgos next Tuesday because of injury. Replacements will be called if there are further withdrawals.

Mick McCarthy, the Millwall player-manager, and Tony Casarino, the Chelsea forward, have withdrawn from the Republic of Ireland squad for Wednesday's World Cup qualifying match against Latvia at Lansdowne Road.

Neither player has played for his club's first team this season. McCarthy has a groin injury and Casarino had a knee operation in the summer. Jack Charlton, the Ireland manager, may be tempted to call up Kevin Moran.

Doubtless he would receive a favourable reply, unlike Maurice Setters, his assistant, who asked Phil Whelan, the young Ipswich Town defender, if he would care to throw in his lot with the Irish.

Whelan, who has been selected for the England under-21 squad and has Irish blood, said: "I listened to what Mr Setters had to say but told him I'm going to Spain and he wished me all the best."

Maidstone liquidated leaving debts of £1 m

MAIDSTONE United, who resigned from the Football League last month, were yesterday placed in the hands of liquidators with debts totalling around £1 million.

A meeting of creditors, including former players and staff, heard that the club's assets were £58,000. The two main creditors are the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise. The Professional Footballers' Association is claiming around £100,000 in unpaid wages on behalf of its members.

Steve Archibald, the former Tottenham Hotspur, Barcelona and Scotland forward, has joined Fulham on a non-contract basis. Archibald, 36, could play in today's home game against West Bromwich Albion.

Leeds United have given a

free transfer to Izur Varadi, 33, the forward who spent a month on loan to Luton Town last season.

John Uzzell, 33, the former Torquay United player who suffered facial injuries after a challenge with Gary Blissett, of Brentford, last season, is to see a specialist after his comeback with non-league Weymouth was halted by severe headaches.

Paul Lake, of Manchester City, has been advised by John Salako, the Crystal Palace winger, to go to the United States for a career-saving operation. Lake's footballing future is threatened by a recurrence of knee ligament damage, and City are ready to send Lake to Los Angeles to undergo a transplant operation similar to that successfully performed on Salako.



Not much to shout about: Clemente's anxiety at White Hart Lane shows

Today's Spurs left to march on in silence

DAVID MILLER

The match kicked off at White Hart Lane not with a rush but a whisper. For those of us who have been going there for the past 40 years or so, it would have been unimaginable not to be aware, from a few yards away outside, that Tottenham Hotspur were in action and the crowd was as silent as a graveyard.

One of the most moving experiences of this long, hot summer was the enthusiasm with which the underdog Danish football supporters adopted the song *Always Look on the Bright Side of Life*.

Perhaps followers of Spurs should do the same, for after all the follies of the Schuster era they are perhaps lucky still to have a club at all. It will be a while before they have, if ever again, the sort of team to which the older loyalists are accustomed.

Teddy Sheringham, angular, eager and quick, is a start, but hardly an indication of better times financially. He did not cost £2 million; he was "exchanged" for Paul Stewart.

"The money just isn't there for the moment, we have to sell to buy," Ray Clemence, the assistant first-team coach, said after the match against Sheffield United on Wednesday.

For the time being, Spurs cannot so much build as rearrange, with what is largely a job lot of bricks. It was extraordinary to witness, as Spurs edged towards victory, the frenzied vocal anxiety on the touchline from Clemence and Doug Livermore, the chief coach: frenzied, that is, for a team winning 2-0.

A look at the expression on

the faces of Clemence and Livermore told you just how slim was Tottenham's grasp of the game, so that it was amusingly ironic to hear Livermore afterwards saying how a victory had reduced the tension.

When Livermore said that "we restricted them to one chance", to some of us it had seemed that the chance had stretched from about the sixtieth minute all the way to the finish, and that Sheffield United had been unfortunate not to draw or even win.

It is my habit for evening fixtures at Tottenham to eat early at a local hostelry among a group of supporters who have seen the kind of memorable football that Livermore can only dream

the first half, never mind that Tottenham were on top, the only sound being the frantic shouts of the players audible the way they are on Sunday morning on Hackney Marshes.

It was shortly after the plaintive cry had been heard from the stands "somebody do something" that Sheringham obliged, deflecting home a sharp cross from near the corner flag by Sedgley.

Football partnerships can take months to develop, but Sheringham and the lively Durie found some harmony within 90 minutes. Yet, if they are to prosper, who is going to provide the ball?

Tottenham down the years have been the team of craft, from Burgess through Blanchflower and White, then Peters, followed more recently by

Ardis and Hoddle, then Gascoigne. Who now? Samways and Allen, neat though they can be, are no more than supporting cast for the absent stars.

The glory of football, which players tend not to realise, is that the game is greater even than the stars, however supreme they may be or may have been; which is why my acquaintance at supper still keeps coming. The game is their drug, they crave entertainment. Not Ruddock habitually behaving like a navy.

Maybe Tottenham can one day be reborn as a great team, but for the moment they are scratching around trying to lay new foundations in shifting sand.

If Everton today play as well as they did when I saw them at Norwich, Tottenham are unlikely for the moment to achieve their second Premier League victory.

"Tottenham were on top and the crowd was quiet. Their mood was obvious. It will be a while before they have the sort of team older loyalists are accustomed to. They cannot so much build as rearrange with what is largely a job lot of bricks"

WEEKEND TEAM NEWS

Today

Aston Villa v C Palace

The breakdown of Saunders's transfer from Liverpool to Villa has provided McAllister with a better chance of reviving his career and he may start his first game for Villa who are without Riegan (Achilles) and Daley (knee) and have Yorkie (doubtful). Matters look like they might get worse before they get better for Palace, still without a win. Thom begins suspension and Coleman is expected to return in a reshuffled defence. With Shaw recovering from a cheekbone operation, Rodgers could play a part.

Blackburn v Nottingham Forest
Blackburn, without a game in midweek, will attempt to regain the leadership with a win over a Forest side making its worst start to a season in 18 years under Brian Clough. Blackburn will be unchanged despite Price's return to fitness. Forest, still attempting to come to terms with the loss of Walker, make two changes in defence, one by choice, Charles for Lawe, and one by necessity, Tiler for Wilson, who has an Achilles injury.

Liverpool v Chelsea
Liverpool continue to be cursed by injury; Thomas's injured ankle requires another fortnight's rest and Jones, though possibly available for this game, enters hospital next week for an operation on his shin splints. Nicol might be fit to play, though, while Stewart needs a fitness test. Despite the encouragement of two consecutive victories, it is far too early to put one's trust in Chelsea, though this does look like their kind of game. Lee could start his first match since last November with Clarke injured.

Middlesbrough v Sheffield U
Middlesbrough, unbeaten in their three starts at home, will be looking to inflict further loss on United, who have not won since the opening day. Middlesbrough, however, will be

without Hendrie, still not recovered from a calf injury, and may call on Home, on loan from Millwall, to deputise for Ironside, who is struggling with a hip injury. Morris needs a test on a calf complaint. The Sheffield side, for whom Tracey, their goalkeeper, was sent off in midweek, will be unchanged.

Norwich v Southampton

On the face of it, this seems like a good opportunity for Norwich to remain on top for at least one more week. An unchanged team means that there is no place again for Robson or Fothergill, who played for the reserves in midweek after suffering a broken nose. Southampton, whose form has improved after a mediocre start, are waiting on Dixon who has an injured ankle; there could be a first league start for Benger.

Oldham v Coventry
Anyone who doubted Coventry's ability to sustain their early season form will have to think again after a significant away win at Sheffield Wednesday. Similarly, Oldham, who have been pre-season tipsters also saw as strong candidates for relegation, have surprised many, not least Leeds with their two goals in midweek. Oldham recall Henry but a doubt persists about Hall's fitness. Coventry give no clue as to whether they will again deploy four forwards. Althorn's chances of playing are in the balance.

QPR v Ipswich
These sides ought to guarantee an enjoyable spectacle however unrelieved the fans were at Loftus Road on Wednesday when Rangers and Arsenal met at each other's hell for leather. Rangers are unsure of the fitness of Forsyth, Bailey and Impy. Thompson and Perence are among those standing by. Holloway, however, can resume playing after a serious eye injury. Ipswich will be relieved to have Kowmya back after injury, not that they appeared to miss him greatly in a highly creditable draw at Middlesbrough in midweek.

Sheff Wed v Man City

City's continued good progress may be stifled by the absence of Quinn, who begins a three-match suspension. Sherrin is the most likely replacement as partner to White. Rad is likely to pick himself ahead of McAllister again. Jenson's imminent return to Forest and Hirst's injury means that Watson is in contention for Wednesday.

Tottenham v Everton

Tottenham will be out to prove that the four points they have gathered from their last two games were not a flash in the pan. They have four youngsters, Barmby, Milner, Watson, all 18, and Turner, 17, on standby because of doubts about the fitness of Durie and Sedgley and the composition of the team which will be captained by Allen for the first time. Everton, one of three unbeaten sides in the Premier League, have numerous injury worries, but, as yet, only Rideout and Piek, their new Yugoslav signing, are definitely out.

Wimbledon v Arsenal

A good opportunity for Arsenal to take closer order in the championship race. Wright is set to continue despite a thigh injury which has cost him his withdrawal from the England squad. Lycenstein, the Norwegian, is poised to take over from Hiller, who is banned. Wimbledon, who have lost their three home games so far, had hoped to recall Scates, but he will be unavailable for at least another week after tearing a calf muscle.

Tomorrow

Man Utd v Leeds

The loss of Dublin has offset the beneficial effect to United of three consecutive victories. United revert to the faded partnership of Hughes and McClair while Leeds contemplate introducing Strachan from the outset. Newcastle could be closer than ever to making his debut.

Compiled by Clive White

Slough emerge from despond with winning start to season

BY WALTER GAMMIE

ALAN Thorne and Bob Pearson, old partners in the rise of Millwall, say they have never had to work as hard as they have in their new role as owners of Slough Town.

Any doubts about the potential of the club that they took over in February have, however, been allayed by the start to the season in the GM Vauxhall Conference, where they are top after four matches — this after a 14-match run in March and April without a win that left them on the edge of the drop after two years in the Conference.

Dagenham and Redbridge were second until beaten 2-0 by Slough on Monday. That match brought in a crowd of 1,813 at Slough and added to the defeats of Kettering Town, Bath City and Northwich Victoria. Heroics in goal by Trevor Bunting helped to secure the rearguard as Darren Anderson and Andy Sayer scored.

David Kemp, appointed full-time manager after a two-year spell in charge of Plymouth Argyle, has a place in Slough's record-books as the man who scored their final goal at their old home, the Dolphin Stadium, in 1974.

He has strengthened the side by signing Les Briley, the midfield player whose lung-

bursting leadership was at the heart of Millwall's promotion to the first division, and Sayer and Ian Hazel, with whom Kemp worked when coach at Watford.

His most recent signing was George Friel, the prolific former Reading forward whose goals helped to take Watford into the Conference, a swap with Colin Fielder, a midfielder player.

Thorne admits it was the persuasiveness of his son, Bob, who lives in Slough, that did most to commit him to the club.

"I like a challenge and I think I've got the right place," he said. "There are a lot of chimney pots around and we've got the chance to pull good crowds in as well."

Both Thorne and Pearson know, however, that football clubs cannot survive on gate takings. Their first task, refurbishing the club's ballroom into "the best banqueting hall in Slough", has been completed; work has begun on the clubhouse foyer. Planning permission has been granted for a 24-booth golf driving range and they are also going to develop a nine-hole golf course. The club's car park — holding 500 — will be drained and landscaped.

Pearson, a renowned talent scout and youth coach, was persuaded by the Thorne, his co-owners, to tackle administrative tasks he had never turned his hand to but which he has found surprisingly satisfying. "There's a long way to go," he said. "We're very, very experienced people. We know what's in front of us. We're going to work very, very hard and make the club special for the town."

The want of £10,000 to secure a ground-sharing agreement with Welling United finally put paid to Dartford's hopes of continuing in the Beazer Homes League premier division after four matches.

Chatterton in charge after third victory

A THIRD win at the centenary Burnham Week for David Chatterton's Sensor has put him in a commanding position for the Class 1 week's trophy and the Stanley Key Trophy (a Special Correspondent writes).

Yesterday, in more blustery conditions, the Sigma 400 was fourth in a 24-mile race, but Camp Freddie's five-minute winning margin was not enough in handicap.

Today there is the Town Cup, the traditional finale to the week, for Class 1 boats. Sensor will start as favourite but a group of challengers, led by Jackdaw and Warford, will be hoping to clinch Burnham Week's most coveted prize.

RESULTS: Day seven: Class 1: Sensor 16.7m, 2. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 3. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 4. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 5. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 6. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 7. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 8. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 9. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 10. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 11. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 12. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 13. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 14. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 15. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 16. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 17. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 18. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 19. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 20. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 21. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 22. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 23. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 24. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 25. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 26. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 27. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 28. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 29. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 30. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 31. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 32. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 33. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 34. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 35. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 36. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 37. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 38. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 39. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 40. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 41. Camp Freddie 16.7m, 42. 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Private Pearce prepares to lead from the back



Pearce: new captain

By Louise Taylor

UNLIKE his predecessor, England's new captain is not interested in hosting a radio show, learning Japanese, discussing antiques or being described as football's ideal ambassador. Stuart Pearce is, in most respects, the opposite of Gary Lineker.

Yet judging from the cheer Pearce received when he returned from injury by appearing as substitute in the friendly with Brazil at Wembley last May, he could prove even more popular captain.

In the aftermath of the European championship, when England's credibility is at rock bottom, Pearce, 30,

knows what his priorities will be when he leads the team out to play Spain in Santander on Wednesday: "My most important job is on the pitch. What happens off it is secondary."

Graham Taylor cited honesty as the principal reason why he picked Pearce as Lineker's successor. "When Stuart stares at you eye to eye you have total honesty," the England manager said.

Pearce agrees he can be "distinctly offish" with hangers-on. And he does not relish dealing with the press: "I don't mind talking to journalists, but I can't say I enjoy it."

Pearce's car, a Volvo Estate rather than the Mercedes or BMW more usually associated with international football-

ers, is not the only surprising thing about him.

He may lack Lineker's slick media skills and value his privacy but he never ducks a question. Take his views on Brian Clough, the Forest manager: "I do not regard Clough as a friend and would not want to." He said that long before Clough's decision not to increase his weekly wage from a reported £3,500 to a sum in line with that of other internationals. Pearce is upset at reports of a dispute with his manager. "He may not be a friend but I like Brian Clough. He tells you the truth and is prepared to drop absolutely anyone. He is aloof, but I think managers should be. He rules by a

mixture of respect and fear. But that is the best way, because if a manager gets too close to players he loses those things."

"But it does mean that as Forest captain I have been kept well in my place. I would be happy if Graham Taylor wants me to have extra responsibilities. Before the European championship, he had not really had a chance to impose himself on us. But I am looking forward to working closely with him now. He is very honest and I admire his willingness to chop and change a team for particular matches."

"We need to restore some credibility by winning in Spain and beating Norway in

the World Cup qualifier next month. We have to lay the bogey of the summer. Football is about highs and lows. The downs make you appreciate the ups."

Pearce should know. After being rejected by Queen's Park Rangers as a teenager, Pearce packed boxes in a warehouse, then trained as an electrician while playing for Wealdstone. By comparison, he says, life as a professional footballer is "a doddle". When the call came to join Coventry City nine years ago, Pearce was 21. "It was a gamble. I took a pay cut and gave up a good job."

He was pleasantly surprised by what he found. "None of the forwards were

as intimidating as those I met playing for Wealdstone. And there was so much free time. I spent afternoons wandering round shops."

After two years, Pearce had done enough to catch the eye of Clough, who discovered that, in addition to tackling and overlapping, he took a mean free kick.

Pearce's girlfriend, Liz, is used to the sportsman's life, having worked for the show jumpers, Ted Edgar and Nick Skelton, and she has brought stability to his life. Pearce has strong views on football managers: "It is a manager's fallacy that players should be married young. When I was unmarried, I looked after myself just as well as now. On

Friday nights, I'd have an orange juice at Wembley dogs before going home to bed at 9pm." Nowadays, that sense of responsibility has led him to take regular coaching sessions at Forest. He is not planning to rule it out. "Glenn Hoddle is proving very good after saying he would never do it."

Before that, there is a World Cup to qualify for, not to mention Forest's trip to Blackburn Rovers today. After losing four of their first five matches, Clough's team needs to make swift improvements. Pearce is not worried. "We do so little pre-season training, we're just getting fit."

Champions contemplate change

Leeds may turn to Strachan for inspiration

By Clive White

LEEDS United may feel compelled to turn to the inspirational figure of Gordon Strachan tomorrow to provide them with the inside knowledge they may need if they are to inflict their first defeat on Manchester United in nine meetings since these two great football clubs renewed their league rivalry two seasons ago.

The wee man, who will be 36 next February, has yet to start a game this season for the champions but Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, is contemplating introducing him from the outset in the televised game at Old Trafford, where Strachan was once the darling of the Manchester crowd.

Hugely satisfying though their victory over Manchester United was in last season's duel for the championship, it grates with the Leeds club and its supporters that they have still to savour the taste of a head-to-head victory since their return to the upper echelon of the English game two seasons ago. Their four league meetings have all ended in draws, with United winning the four cup contests.

In order to accommodate Strachan, Wilkinson would have to either revert to a two-pronged attack or, more probably, move Gary Speed to full back. Wilkinson is understandably concerned about the threat posed by Ryan Giggs, Manchester United's young winger, to the right flank of his

TABLE	P	W	D	L	Pts
Nottingham	1	4	4	1	16
Blackburn	2	4	3	1	15
QPR	3	3	4	1	13
Aston	4	3	3	2	12
Manchester U.	5	3	2	3	11
Sheff Wed	6	3	2	3	11
Leeds	7	2	4	2	10
Sheff Utd	8	2	3	3	9
Sheff Utd	9	2	3	3	9
Sheff Wed	10	2	3	3	9
Sheff Utd	11	2	3	3	9
Sheff Wed	12	2	3	3	9
Sheff Utd	13	2	3	3	9
Sheff Wed	14	2	3	3	9
Sheff Utd	15	2	3	3	9
Sheff Wed	16	2	3	3	9
Sheff Utd	17	2	3	3	9
Sheff Wed	18	2	3	3	9
Sheff Utd	19	2	3	3	9
Sheff Wed	20	2	3	3	9

defence, and yesterday in training was experimenting with Chris Fairclough at right back and Jon Newsome, the regular No. 2, at centre back, which is his natural position.

Leeds were noticeably unsettled at Elland Road last Saturday when Liverpool brought on Walters, and Walters's form cannot be compared with that of the young Welshman. "Teams are now making plans to shut him out, but Ryan has learned a lot in his first year," Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, said yesterday.

Giggs's finishing, however, still leaves something to be desired, as does that of United in general. The comfort drawn by Ferguson from keeping three consecutive clean sheets has not entirely offset their lack of goals at the other end.

It is in Giggs's role of provider that United must

hope that he can lay opportunity plenty for Mark Hughes and Brian McClair, who have had to be brought back into a troubled harness after the loss of Dion Dublin with a fractured leg and ankle ligament damage. Andrei Kanchelskis is likely to be restored to the other wing in order to ensure that the United front two do not want for the kind of service Strachan once freely supplied.

Nowadays his service for Leeds takes all forms, including the role of adviser to Wilkinson while seated together on the bench. "I felt no embarrassment at all about being substitute in a team as good as this one," Strachan said. "I have watched them with pride so far this season, rather like a father watching his children grow up."

"We have been playing much better than our modest points total would suggest. With regard to me not being in the first XI, I am in good company because there are also the likes of David Rocastle, Scott Sellars and Steve Hodge."

"I have still got a few years left in me. I am sometimes asked about my future but I do not have any plans to leave this club because it would be downhill if I did. When I left Old Trafford I said in the programme that I hoped to go back with Leeds in the first division and with Manchester United as league champions. I thought that was the way it was going to be."

"I thought it would be a long and hard job for Leeds to even reach the first division. The way things are now it is rather like a fairy-tale with me going back there having won a championship medal."

Manchester United, it could be said, never found an effective replacement for Strachan. Similarly, it has taken Chelsea time to find a successor for Tony Doris, also now at Elland Road. Chelsea are hoping that their search has ended with the signing of Anthony Barnes from Charlton Athletic for £350,000.



Tears of triumph: Magdalena Maleeva, of Bulgaria, reacts to her surprising 6-4, 0-6, 6-3 second-round defeat of the former champion, Martina Navratilova, at the US Open tennis championships in New York. Report and results, page 27

Lewis payment to run in Turin upsets athletes

FROM DAVID MILLER IN TURIN

THE alleged appearance bonus of \$200,000 paid to Carl Lewis to persuade him to run in last night's IAAF Mobil grand prix final has thrown athletics into confusion. Not only were other competitors, not to mention their agents, gathering in a flurry of private resentment, but the way is opened for other leading performers to make such demands if they are to appear at next year's world championship in Stuttgart, and even the Olympic Games.

This controversy will be high on the agenda at today's meeting of the grand prix commission, which will consider changes to the format for next year.

Fran Michelman, Mobil's athletics director, said last night: "The grand prix final needs to be equally fair to all competitors. The IAAF must look at the financial situation, and it is probable that the final needs an increase in prize-money."

The problem for the IAAF is that a number of the earlier individual grands prix do offer appearance money to prominent athletes, as part of their package to attract the crowds as well as the competitors. Primo Nebiolo, the president of the IAAF, yesterday acknowledged that a bonus may have been paid to Lewis by independent sponsors in order to guarantee the success of this high-profile Italian event. The IAAF was not a party to the arrangement, Nebiolo said.

But agents for competitors such as Sergey Bubka and the leading Kenyans were concerned at what they regarded as preferential treatment. Agents will raise the issue of prize-money for next year's world championships at the October meeting to determine next year's schedule.

"The grand prix final has had some problems in the past," Robert Stinson, the treasurer of the IAAF, said, "but this year we've sold more tickets than usual, and maybe that is because more of the better athletes are coming. The difficulty is that the final comes at the end of the season when many are exhausted. It is possible the structure needs altering if it's going to work, that we will have to spend

more money."

However, Stinson questioned whether competitors would sidestep the world championship if not offered appearance money, because it is performance in the world championship that establishes the market value for their grand prix appearances.

The budget for this year's final is £1.5 million, and fortunately for the IAAF, its present level of sponsorship is sufficiently prosperous for it to continue a programme of expansion that some consider to be too extensive.

Mobil, however, is more than satisfied with its continuing involvement. This year's grand prix is the first in a new four-year contract with the IAAF. It is possible that from next year there will be a two-tier grand prix, with a second division of ten events that would include one or two of the ailing meetings such as Helsinki and Malmö.

Mobil, whose gross budget for athletics approaches \$3 million, are encouraged by the fact that athletes have become increasingly committed to the grand prix after some uncertainty when the competition began in 1985, but disparities such as that last night need to be resolved. The strength of the IAAF in relation to the athletes and agents is that the meeting directors, wanting a stable position with a guarantee of the athletes' commitment, are glad to work hand-in-hand with the governing body.

Lewis qualified for the final only because some of those above him in the 100 metres points ranking list, such as Linford Christie, had dropped out. Christie has abandoned plans to race Carl Lewis over 100 metres in Tokyo on September 19. Britain's Olympic champion said yesterday that he wanted to meet Lewis in Britain next season. □ Talence, France: Dan O'Brien, of the United States, appeared ready to break the world decathlon record after scoring 4,720 points in the first day's competition. The score is ahead of Daley Thompson's first-day total of 4,677 at the 1984 Olympics, when the Briton set the record mark of 8,847 points. (AFP)

Arsenal alter policy

TICKET touts suffered a blow yesterday when Arsenal shelved their all-ticket policy in an attempt to boost attendances at Highbury.

The move, agreed with local police for a trial period, comes only three weeks into the season. "Supporters have been turning up for matches without tickets and have been unable to get in. The only

people who have been benefiting are the spivs," the Arsenal managing director, Ken Friar, said.

"We have now agreed with the police that for the next few matches any tickets that remain unsold will be available on the turnstiles up until kick-off." Arsenal's capacity is reduced to just over 29,000 because of rebuilding work.

Ryder Cup points in South Africa

By Patricia Davies

THE golfers in the European team to face the Americans in the Ryder Cup at the Belfry next September will have picked up their points in some exotic locations. The team hopefuls are freezing in Switzerland in the Canon European Masters tournament this week, but should be warmed by the news that they will be starting the 1993 season in South Africa, Dubai and Singapore.

The opening event, worth \$400,000, is scheduled for the Mount Edgecombe course in Durban on January 21 to 24, and although it is strictly part of the South African Sunshine circuit, there will be places for 50 European Tour players and, crucially, Ryder Cup points to be had.

Ken Schofield, the executive director of the PGA European Tour, would not comment on the announcement, which appeared in the South African

newspapers yesterday morning. Apparently he is still planning to give details of the 1993 Volvo tour schedule on September 16, but that could be subject to revision now that the word is out.

Andy McFee, the tour's senior tournament director, has already been to South Africa to reconnoitre.

Colin Montgomerie, wrapped up in his waterproofs after combating a near-blizzard during the second round of the European Masters, still has chattering teeth long enough to say: "If there are Ryder Cup points on offer, I'll be there."

The Scot, who made his Ryder Cup debut at Kiawah Island last year, had established a three-shot lead at Crans with a remarkable late run of birdies.

Dundas in final, page 30
Montgomerie's day, page 30

Grateful Lithuania best-seller

Occasionally one is confronted by an event that, in the words of Anthony Powell, drives "a relatively deep fissure through the variegated seams of time". I had exactly this experience when I heard that the Lithuanian basketball T-shirt was the biggest selling item from the Olympic Games in Barcelona.

Forget the fortunes Nike invested in the Dream Team. "Sir" Charles Barkley, Clyde "the Glide" Drexler and all. This is a tie-dye T-shirt (remember tie-dye) that bears a gravity-defying, slam-dunking skeleton — and it was all paid for, not by Nike, but by Lithuanian basketball, not by those unbelievably still play-in-the-band rock musicians of the sixties, The Grateful Dead.

The Dead, famous for endless concerts, are a deep part of my past and the past of

many others. And still they play on: "The Grateful Dead are about celebration and freedom," said a band spokesman, talking about the backing for Lithuania. "It was utterly appropriate — this small country, emerging from the shadows after 54 years. What could be better than connecting with us?"

Couch betting

Imagine lying slumped before the television at home, watching the horse racing. Suddenly you have a fancy for the beast with the nice white face. So you pick up your television remote controller, punch out a series of numbers and place your bet. This sounds pretty fanciful stuff, but a Californian company has plans to introduce such a system next year. The company, NTN Communications, plans a nationwide network. You pay \$45 for a device that allows you to use the system, and after that, you just lie there and bet until they pull the plug on you.

□ Here is the latest football story about Gaza. A team from Lancaster became the

SIMON BARNES ON SATURDAY

first foreigners to play on the Gaza Strip since December 1987. They played a 1-1 draw against Gaza City, in belting heat on a tricky, bumpy pitch. "These games are important for both sides," said Mouamar Besso, in charge of the Gaza team. The

tour was arranged by Peter Morrison of the British Council. There was a 4-0 defeat by Jerusalem (once referred to by a football writer as "birthplace of the legendary Jesus Christ") and matches against Ramallah and Jalazone refugee camps.

Lost and found

This really must be the last story from the Olympic Games. The following items were left behind in the athletes' village: three woollen shawls (in a temperature of 110°) a cheque for \$40,000 (who said amateurism is dead?), eight certificates of femaleness and a rice cooker. Also, someone forgot a bow and a complete set of arrows, though this was not, presumably, the man who lit the torch, since he did it again at the Paralympics this week.



Vintage youth

Zamboanga City won the Little League world championship, a competition for baseball players 12 years old and younger. It has not escaped the world's notice that Ian Tolentino, the star pitcher of Zamboanga, has a moustache. His team won after beating Long Beach, California, by the massive score of 15-4. The returning heroes were greeted with a ticker-tape parade in Manila and the president, Fidel Ramos, gave the boys a million pesos (\$41,600) in scholarships. But the triumph was followed by allegations in the Philippine Daily Inquirer that players were over the age limit. Naturally, this has been vehemently denied. But accusations of age-fiddling are nothing new in the Philippines (or practically everywhere else where sport is conducted on an age basis).

One Filipino baseball coach said that in 1984, trainers removed body hair from charges to foster the illusion that they had yet to reach puberty. Tolentino's school, a Catholic establishment in La-

guna province, was contacted for details about his age. They hung up.

Tuppence less

The sport of crown green bowls is up on its dignity — all because Peter Blakeley likes to play with a Yorkshire terrier stuffed down the front of his jumper. Tuppence, the terrier, competed with Blakeley in one major event, the Talbot, which offers £9,000 in prize-money. But when the pair went to the Waterloo competition — this is the big one, with £25,000 at stake — Tuppence got the red card. An official said: "This is a major sport, and it is not the image we are trying to create. Other bowlers might construe it as gamesmanship." Dog gamesmanship would have opened an intriguing new book by Stephen Potter, but Blakeley competed without Tuppence. He said: "I love Tuppence, and he goes everywhere with me. He doesn't interfere with other bowlers, and he doesn't give me an unfair advantage." Au contraire, I would have thought.



WEEKEND TIMES

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5 1992

The saviour of Snowdonia

Our most dramatic National Park is under threat from visitors, farmers, sheep and decades of official neglect.

June Ducas reports on the battle to save it — and talks to its unlikely champion

As summer dims into autumn, before harsh winter bites, seasoned rock climbers and ramblers make for the hills of Snowdonia, the second largest National Park in England and Wales (after the Lake District). They know that come September, the rainfall ebb and the weather tends to be more temperate. Better still, the coachloads of sightseers and family parties dwindle, leaving the 835 square miles of wide open spaces for sure-footed experts to roam virtually untrammelled.

Of all our National Parks Snowdonia is the most dramatic, with its rugged peaks capped by Snowdon at 3,560 feet, and breathtaking views of the Welsh coastline, and over the Menai Strait to Anglesey.

Majestic though the mountains are, Snowdonia's singularity lies in its extraordinary diversity of habitats within a small area: wild upland heaths, boglands, peat moors, lowland riverside meadows, limpid lakes, steep vegetated cliffs and ancient oak woodlands which give way unexpectedly to soft, undulating green valleys.

To most of the 12 million visitors a year, few places on earth can seem more serene or tranquil. But appearances are deceptive. "All is not well in the hills," says Richard Neale, who was born in the vicinity and is the National Trust's warden on the Aberglaslyn estate.

Over the past 20 years, imperceptibly at first and now with gathering pace, many aspects of the beautiful landscape — from the butterflies to the hedgerows and drystone walls — have come under serious threat. Some of the perils result from over-intensive modern agricultural practices, others from increased leisure activities, lack of natural regeneration in the woodlands, and depopulation — not to mention decades of neglect. Pollution, global warming, acid rain, even the after-effects of Chernobyl are also taking their toll.

Three things are needed to improve matters: public awareness, employment, and money. The first requires no explanation. The second is essential to keep people on the land, while at the same time preserving Welsh culture. Cash is principally needed for the sake of ecology. If the farmers are adequately supported, they will revert to tilling the earth in an old-fashioned way which in turn will secure the future of the wildlife and precious botanical sites.

In an attempt to address these problems the National Trust, the largest single landowner in Snowdonia, with 50,000 acres to its name (9 per cent of the total park), two years ago launched a £2 million appeal with the Oscar-winning actor, Anthony Hopkins, as its president. At the time Hopkins declared: "I am determined not to be just a figurehead — I want to be involved."

Since then he has been meeting an exacting film schedule, from *The Silence of the Lambs* and *Dracula* in Hollywood to *The Trial* in Prague and *The Innocent* in Berlin.

However, true to his words, Hopkins recently returned to Snowdonia to acquaint himself with the terrain, to learn, and to work for nearly a week alongside the National Trust team. His immense vigour and commitment have impressed all those he meets.

"I had been feeling a bit detached, thus I am glad to have the opportunity to make an intensive tour," he said. "It is quite an education being in the field, meeting the people whose deep respect for nature gives them a certain knowledge that with time and patience all the problems will be resolved. One has to adjust to their time scale for, unlike ordinary folk, they are not talking about tomorrow, but 400 years hence. It's a holistic experience, spiritually uplifting and a good way to come to terms with yourself."

Hopkins can identify with this. Once notorious for his hell-raising and drinking (since 1975 he has

not touched a drop), Hopkins has controlled the side of his character which once threatened to wreck his career. But he is still a deeply restless man, who will walk across London to get rid of excess energy. Could Snowdonia become his natural habitat?

Born in the industrial town of Port Talbot in South Wales, Hopkins says, "I am not a country person at all. I prefer the cities: New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, London. Nor am I a professional Welshman; I don't even speak the language. I wish I did."

So why did he take on the Snowdonia appeal? "Look around you," he replies. Perhaps thinking of his only daughter, Abigail, aged 24, he adds: "I am determined that my grandchildren do not say of my generation that we knew what was happening, understood the dangers and consequences, and failed to act, betraying their birthright."

Built like a sturdy Welsh bull, Hopkins is a man with a tough air. Certainly he proved equal to the task of heaving rocks one morning in the driving rain while helping National Trust volunteers to rebuild drystone walls. He clearly found the physical exertion exhilarating. Later in the day he rolled up his sleeves again to bash at the invasive rhododendrons which are smothering the heather on the hillsides. Introduced to the area in Victorian times, the bushes are strangling the native flora. "Where there is heather you can smell the pollen in the sunlight and hear the buzzing of the bees, the butterflies and the insects which sustain the birdlife," Richard Neale says. "In a thicket of rhodod, all is quiet."

Ever eager to participate, Hopkins was soon climbing a thousand feet up the mountain to meet the footpath gang. To everyone's astonishment he arrived ahead of his party, albeit puffing and panting. ("When I found my breath, the gang were very nice and said, 'Oh we feel like that every day!'" he says.)

He listened intently as the four young workers explained how they were using the rediscovered craft of pitching stone paths that not only blend harmoniously with the scenery but last for centuries. Each boulder is painstakingly selected, then wedged in place by the one in front. To ensure that the footpaths are not washed away in winter storms, water gullies are built at regular intervals at a precise angle to break the velocity of the water.

"We went to the Lake District to learn this method, which was used by the monks 350 years ago," says one of the footpath gang, Maggie Scott, an agricultural graduate from Bangor University, and a former blacksmith. "It has taken us 18 months to build one mile of footpath. But nearly four miles are in a desperate state, and at least ten further miles could do with reparation." This kind of skilled work is slow and expensive. From appeal funds, it has cost the National Trust £38,000 in this year alone.

When he was flown in by helicopter for the appeal launch ceremony in 1990, Hopkins got a bird's-eye view of some of the difficulties. "Even with my untutored eye I could see the terrible erosion of the footpaths, which not only scars the face of the hills but means that people not having a set trail make tracks of their own, often trampling underfoot rare and precious plants," he says. "From the air I could also see at a glance the proliferation of rhododendrons, the derelict drystone walls, archaeological sites and vernacular buildings, plus the regimented rows of encroaching conifer plantation."

This spread of conifers is one of the concerns of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), which owns several hundred acres of land in the Mawddach valley. "Because of them, the moorland



Equipped to play the part: the actor Anthony Hopkins, president of the Snowdonia appeal, has just spent a week helping National Trust volunteers to restore walls

birds — hen harrier, merlin, red grouse and ring ouzel — and the waders like curlew, golden plover and lapwing are being replaced by forest species," says Roger Lovegrove, the RSPB officer for Wales, "although the influence of environmental bodies and tax incentives to reduce planting is making the Forestry Enterprise more enlightened."

"At the moment our overriding preoccupations are overgrazing by sheep on the uplands, where the loss of heather is crucial to many of

the 18-month-old Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), which was born out of the Nature Conservancy Council and the Countryside Commission. "We work with the National Park Authority and all interested parties," says Warren Martin, the CCW's warden for north Wales. "Our principal anxiety is twofold: the combination of close-cropped vegetation with the ever-increasing forces of recreation. Together they denude the mountain of its protective layer. The weather does the rest. However, we don't see this as a new battle for Snowdonia, rather as a continuous, ever-changing struggle."

In recent years the struggle has been especially fierce for the farmers, the custodians of the land. Tenaciously they cling to their roots. Some families have lived in the valleys for seven generations, often interbreeding. "I've only been here for 50 years," one farmer remarked. "I'm a stranger to the valley."

All recognise that unbroken succession is what really matters.

"The inhabitants here are pastoral people," Mr Martin says. "Farming is a way of life, not a business. They are not interested in over-exploiting the land, merely in maintaining a reasonable standard of living. Women in the family don't want to go back to washing clothes in a stream."

A 150-acre smallholding will, at best, yield £5,000 or £6,000 a year. With the prices of meat and wool currently reduced, incomes are decreasing, costs rising. Meanwhile the Common Agricultural Policy implemented in Europe is continually in flux, leading to uncertainty.

After the second world war there was an emphasis on increasing the numbers of livestock; food was the priority. Consequently pocket handkerchief-sized farms were overworked, overgrazed. In the 1970s the process accelerated. A smallholding in the hills could not support a large family with rising

expectations, nor compete with the wages in the Midlands. Hence many of the younger male members of a household drifted away, leaving fewer shepherds on the hill. If sheep graze selectively, taking the best bites first, the hill becomes a moth-eaten blanket.

Luckily the 1980s brought a growing awareness of green issues. "Many of the young became disillusioned by the material world," Mr Martin says. "A few returned, and others decided to stay on the land." Trends, opinions and policies began to reverse. The environment, if not at the wheel, was at least in the passenger seat. The CCW now pays farmers to keep sheep off parts of the mountain at certain times of the year. There are incentives encouraging farmers to keep hay fields, where threatened species of wild orchids and rare plants such as the globeflower and bayonet thrive. Silage fields are frowned upon, even though they are less dependent on fine weather than hay, have more nutrients, and demand fewer labourers.

Still in its infancy, a scheme called Tir Cymen (good husbandry), initiated by the CCW, will give annual payments for lower stock ratios, and capital grants for repairs and restoration. The National Trust already reduces rents to tenants with clauses in their agreements for well-crafted land, and offers incentives for cherishing the vernacular buildings.

Lord Elis-Thomas has noticed a heartening change of attitude. "I have seen an awareness among local people who 20 years ago would have shouted for developments such as power stations, factories and mineral exploitation," he says.

"Now they argue for improved conservation as they appreciate that the landscape is our major asset, side by side with service industries for the tourist. They are queuing up for Tir Cymen, as they see that they will be rewarded for caring."

"But I must reiterate that whatever else, sensitive areas need to be controlled in order to protect their distinctive character. We don't want to be overmarketed."

'I am determined that my grandchildren do not say of my generation that we knew what was happening, understood the dangers and consequences, and failed to act, betraying their birthright'

the same species; and possibly worse still, the indescribable menace of the mountain bike, creating erosion and disturbance amongst the birdlife."

These words merely highlight the conflicting pressures on Snowdonia — farmers' livelihoods versus ecology, public access versus conservation interests. "I get very wound up about people coming from urban areas and descending on the National Parks insisting they have the right to be there," says Lord Elis-Thomas, vice-president of the Snowdonia appeal. Brought up in the Conwy valley, he now lives in the southern part of the park, and was MP for Meirionnydd Nant Gwynedd for 18 years before he was recently elevated to the Lords. "It is a privilege to live here and a privilege to visit. If people are not careful they will destroy the very thing they have come to see."

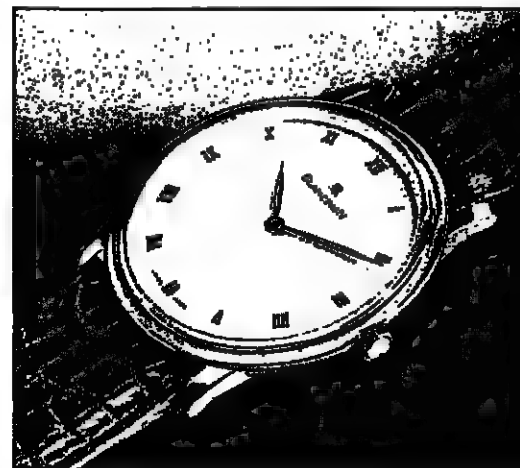
The task of creating an overall strategy, and injecting funds wherever possible, lies in the hands of

LOST IN SNOWDONIA

In the past 20 years the National Park has lost:

- 6,400 acres of grass moor, 6,400 acres of unimproved pasture and 3,900 acres of upland heath
- 100 miles of hedgerow and 54 miles of drystone wall
- more than 53 square kilometres of land turned over to conifer plantation
- In addition, in the whole of Gwynedd only 200 pairs of lapwings remain. The second largest colony — just 12 pairs — lies on the National Trust's Ysbyty estate.

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IRISH FOOD AND DRINK, PAGES 6,7



A celebration of Ireland's riches — the best of the whiskey, the lessons of the kitchen, and how to cook food fit for a king

GETTING AWAY, PAGE 8



In Dublin's fair city with a small-town atmosphere, join the ghosts of James Joyce and Brendan Behan on a literary pub crawl

SHOPPING, PAGE 10



From glassware to tweed, Ireland is displaying its wares in London — plus where to buy Irish goods around Britain

FILM

ALIEN 4 (18): Sigourney Weaver fights another alien infestation in deep space. Punishingly odd. Charles S. Dutton, Charles Dance; director, David Fincher. Camden Parkway (071-267-7034) MGM Chelsea (071-352-5096) Odeon Kensington (0426-914666) Odeon Leicester Square (0426-915 683) UCI Whiteleys (071-792-3303).

BATMAN RETURNS (12): Quirky but ho-hum sequel, best when the spotlight falls on Michelle Pfeiffer's electrifying Catwoman. Michael Keaton, Danny DeVito; director, Tim Burton. Empire (071-497 9999) MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) MGM Pantons Street (071-930 0631).

COUSIN BOBBY (PG): Jonathan Demme's amiable but slender documentary about his cousin, an Episcopalian Minister in Harlem. Everyman (071-435 1525).

THE CUTTING EDGE (PG): Ice hockey player turns figure-skater and thaws a prima donna of the blades. Very silly. D.B. Sweeney, Moira Kelly; director, Paul M. Glaser. MGM Chelsea (071-351 374/25743) MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527) MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3303).



Fear: George T. Odum in *Straight Out of Brooklyn*

HITLER: A FILM FROM GERMANY (18): Hans Jürgen Syberberg's seven-hour epic from 1977 about Hitler's grip on the German psyche. Hard work, but there is nothing like it in cinema history. ICA Cinema (071-930 3647).

HOWARDS END (PG): Absorbing version of E.M. Forster's novel about two colliding families with different ideals. With Anthony Hopkins, Emma Thompson, Helena Bonham-Carter. Director, James Ivory. Curzon Mayfair (071-465 8865) Phoenix (081-883 2233).

JERSEY GIRL (15): Cinderella from New Jersey tries for a Manhattan Prince Charming. Stale romantic comedy with a few bright moments. Jamie Gertz, Dylan McDermott; director, David Burton Morris. Plaza (071-497 9999).

JUICE (15): Friendship and violence among ghetto youths. Superior sample of the new black cinema, directed by Spike Lee's cameraman Ernest R. Dickenson. Omar Epps, Tupac Shakur. Electric (071-792 2020) MGM Pantons Street (071-930 0631) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031).

KNIGHT MOVES (18): Somebody goes on a murder spree during a chess tournament: it's champion player Christopher Lambert! Tawdry thriller. Diane Lane; flashy direction by Carl Schenkel. Odeon West End (0426-915 574).

LETHAL WEAPON 3 (15): Rousing comedy and mayhem with L.A. cops Riggs and Murtaugh. Mel Gibson, Danny Glover, Joe Pesci; director, Richard Donner. MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527) MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 6279/071-722 5454) Trocadero (071-434 0031) Odeon Marble Arch (0426 914501) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3303).

LOVE IN THE TIME OF HYSTERIA: Alfonso Cuarón's slick Mexican farce brings the Casanova story into the era of safe sex. Part of the third Latin American Film Festival. Metro (071-437 0757).

LOVERS (18): In Franco's Spain, Victoria Abril dreads her lodger's intended marriage. Excellent tale of mad love, expertly mounted by director Vicente Aranda. MGM Piccadilly (071-437 3561) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366).

MASALA (18): Dishevelled satirical fantasy set in Toronto's Indian community. With Saeed Jaffrey (delightful in three roles); writer-director, Shomee Krishna. Metro (071-437 0757).

NIGHT ON EARTH (15): Five tragicomic encounters in one night-time taxi. Uneven but amiable. Jim Jarmusch compendium. Roberto Benigni, Gena Rowlands, Beatrice Dalle. Camden Plaza (071-485 2443) Gate (071-227 4043) Lumiere (071-836 0631) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636).

PETER PAN (U): Disney's 1952 cartoon version of J.M. Barrie; often bland, but Captain Hook makes a splendid villain. MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3303).

THE PLAYER (15): Dazzling satire on Hollywood, directed by Robert Altman from Michael Tolkin's novel. Tim Robbins as the studio executive who kills a writer plus cameo roles. MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) MGM Pantons Street (071-930 0631) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Odeon Kensington (0426 914666) Mezzanine (0426 915683) Screen on Baker Street (071-935-2772) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3303).

THE POWER OF ONE (12): Orphaned white South African child develops a social conscience. Jumbled epic, coarsely handled by director John G. Avildsen. Stephen Dorff, Morgan Freeman, Armin Mueller-Stahl. Empire (071-497 9999) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Whiteleys (071-792 3303).

STRAIGHT OUT OF BROOKLYN (15): Violence and despair in a Brooklyn housing block. Awkward first feature from an enterprising 19-year-old, writer-director Matty Rich. Renair (071-837 8402).

WATERLAND (15): Jeremy Irons as the history teacher haunted by his Fenland childhood. Brave but failed attempt to film Graham Swift's complex novel. Director, Stephen Gyllenhaal. Curzon West End (071-439 4805) Chelsea (071-351-3742) Odeon Kensington (0426 914 666).

WHITE SANDS (15): The FBI, black marketers and a small-town cop chase each other's tails in New Mexico. An impenetrable plot, but lively. William Darrow, Mickey Rourke; director, Roger Donaldson. MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527) MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 6279) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031).

THEATRE

LONDON

AN INSPECTOR CALLS: Kenneth Cranham probes the guilty secrets of a repressive family (Richard Pasco, Barbara Leigh-Hunt) in Priestley's drama. Stephen Daldry's first production at the NT. National Theatre (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Preview from tonight, 7.30pm. Opens Fri, 7pm. Then in repertoire.

ANGELS IN AMERICA: Thrilling performances in Tony Kushner's fascinating state-of-the-Union drama on AIDS, religion, politics, everything. National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tonight and Mon, 7.15pm, mat today, 1.30pm.

DEATH AND DANCING: The love of two androgynes, written and performed by Claire Downie (who wrote *Why is John Lennon Wearing a Skirt?*) with Mark Pinkosh, from the Hawaiian company Starving Artists. BAC, 176 Lavender Hill, Battersea, SW11 (071-223 2223). Tues-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 6pm.

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: Ariel Dorfman's scorching psychological drama on the longing for revenge. Penny Downie, Danny Webb and Hugh Ross make up the new cast. Dulce of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

GRAND HOTEL: Musical barley sugar. Berlin in the Twenties. Sentimental, American, entertaining. Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (071-580 9562). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm.

HAMLET: For one month only, Alan Rickman and a splendid cast in the Danish play. Tour follows to Bradford, Nottingham, Barrow-in-Furness and Tullis, Georgia. Riverside Studios, Crisp Rd, Hammersmith, W6 (081-748 3954). Preview from Wed, 7.30pm. Opens Sept 15, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until Oct 10.

HECUBA: The suffering of war's victims, as seen by Euripides; Laurence Boswell's first production since becoming the Gate's artistic director. Gate, 11 Pembroke Road, W11 (071-229 0706). Preview Wed, Thurs, 7.30pm. Opens Fri, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm.

HIS MAJESTY: Newly transferred from Edinburgh alongside *The Madras House*, this is Harley Granville Barker's 1928 play about the exiled King of Carpathia (Sam Dastor) who renounces his stricken country to bring the warring sides together. Animated, but short on theatrical surprise. Orange Tree, 1 Clarence Street, Richmond (081-940 3633). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm.



Liaison: Adrian Lester and Channing in *Six Degrees*

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THE MADRAS HOUSE: Roger Alton heads strong cast in Granville Barker's proto-feminist, serious comedy, set in an Edwardian fashion house. Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (081-741 2311). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm.

MEDIA: Diana Rigg plays Euripides' wife with bent on revenge. New translation by Alastair Elliot; Jonathan Kent directs. Almeida, Almeida St, N1 (071-359 4404). Preview from Thurs, 8pm. Opens Sept 16, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm. Mat Sat, 4pm. Until Oct 24.

WHEN THE PAST IS STILL TO COME: Tom Kempson's new two-hander: a psychoanalyst and his patient. John Castle, Ron Wood. Finborough, 118 Finborough Road, Ears Court, SW10 (071-373 3842). Preview, tonight and Mon, Tues, 8pm. Opens Wed, 8pm. Mon-Sat, 8pm.

PHILADELPHIA, HERE I COME! Brian Friel's affectionate comedy of an Irish emigrant. Wyndham's, Chancery Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm.

THE SCHOOL OF NIGHT: Alarmist Theatre's production, hot from Edinburgh, about the murky world inhabited by Christopher Marlowe. Warehouse, Dingwall Rd, East Croydon (081-680 4060). Opens Wed, 8pm. Then Tues-Sat, 8pm. Mat Sun, 5pm. Until Oct 4.

SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION: Stockard Channing as the rich New Yorker transfused by a black con artist in John Guare's fine play. Comedy, Fenton Street, SW1 (071-867 1045). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm and Sat, 4pm.

SOMEONE WHO'LL WATCH OVER ME: Excellent play by Alec McCowen, Hugh Quarshie and Stephen Rea as Benet hostages in Frank McGuinness's new play, now at the Vaudeville. Vaudeville, The Strand, WC2 (071-836 9987). Opens Tues, 8pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm. Mats, Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 4pm.

VALENTINE'S DAY: Romantic musical comedy based on Shaw's *You Never Can Tell* by Benny Green and Denis King. First seen at Chichester and still with Edward Petherbridge as the sublimely benign waiter. Globe, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5065). Preview from Mon, 8pm. Opens Sept 17.



Anguish: Sam Dastor and Caroline John in Granville Barker's *His Majesty* (see Theatre)

7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm. Mats (from Sept 23), Wed, 3pm and Sat, 4pm.

WOMEN LAUGHING: Michael Wall's black comedy about husbands in crisis over their wives. Acclaimed at the Royal Exchange, Manchester, earlier this year. Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 2554). Preview from today, 7.30pm. Opens Tues, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until Oct 3.

REGIONAL

BIRMINGHAM: Anthony Clark directs the company's younger actors in Rod Dunstons' commissioned play *Playing by the Rules*: vent boys and the attendant hazards of life on the streets. Birmingham Rep Studio, Broad Street (021-236 4455). Opens Wed, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm. Mat Sat (Sept 26), 3.15pm.

EDINBURGH: Normal life returns after the Festival with Neil Bartlett's new version of Moliere's *School for Wives*: sexual politics and philosophical slapstick. Royal Lyceum, Grindlay Street, (031-229 9977). Free preview Thurs, 7.45pm. Opens Fri, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm. Mat Sat, 3.15pm.

MANCHESTER: Bernard Bresslaw, Ursula Roache, Patricia Kerrigan in *Love's Labour's Lost*; James Macdonald's directorial debut at this theatre. Royal Exchange, St Ann's Square (061-833 9833). Opens Thurs, 7.30pm. Fri and Sat, 8pm. Mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat 4pm.

SALISBURY: World premiere of *The Memoirs of a Survivor*, based on Doris Lessing's prophetic novel, with Toyah Wilcox as the heroine gazing out at a world in ecological collapse. Salisbury Studio, Playhouse, Malthouse Lane (0722 320339). Opens Wed, 7.45pm. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm. Mat Sat, 4pm.

DANCE

ROMEO AND JULIET: The Scottish Ballet presents its contribution to this year's plethora of *Romeo and Juliet* ballets. The company is unique in Britain in having in its repertoire John Cranko's version of Prokofiev's Shakespeare tale, which was first created for Carla Fracci back in 1958. The revival by the Glasgow company should prove one of the most popular offerings on its current tour. After two performances in Aberdeen today the production moves to Sheffield next week.

His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen (0224 641122), today, 2.30pm and 7.45pm. Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield (0742 769922), Tues-next Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed, next Sat, 2pm.

THE HOTHOUSE: The eighth and final Hothouse dance weekend brings a programme of work by a variety of choreographers including Emlyn Caid, Paula Hampson and the American tap dancer Jackie Shue. For the past three years, the Hothouse has been under the direction of Sue MacLennan and has provided a platform for small-scale independent dance at the South Bank. In May 1993, the venue will launch a new series under the joint artistic directorship of Emma Gladstone and Fin Walker. Purcell Room, South Bank Centre, London SE1 (071-928 8800), today, tomorrow. Contact box office for details.

THE KOSHI: This popular dance theatre troupe celebrates its tenth anniversary by presenting a revival of one of its most popular works, *Endangered Species*, in a new version. The work, featuring a desperate vaudeville double act, is inspired by the life and career of the vaudeville music hall star Johnny Huch, who choreographed the acrobatics. The Grand, Clapham Junction, St John's Hill, London SW11 (071-738 9000), Mon-Thurs, 8pm.

MUSIC

CLASSICAL

EDINBURGH: The last day of the festival brings the culmination of a patriotic series of concerts charting the development of Scottish music through the centuries. Entitled 'The Scottish Virtuoso', tonight's concert is given by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. The programme of 19th and 20th-century music includes Thea Musgrave's 1971 Horn Concerto (with Barry Tuckwell the soloist) and the Scottish premiere of James Macmillan's percussion concerto, *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, written for Evelyn Glennie (tonight's soloist) and first heard at the Proms last month. Usher Hall, Lothian Road, Edinburgh, tonight, 8pm (031-225 5756).

PREMIERE ENSEMBLE: Mark Wigmore conducts an appealing programme of 20th-century British music, featuring Tippett's Concerto for Double String Orchestra and Concerto for Orchestra, Britten's Simple Symphony and the first British performance of a new version for string ensemble and mezzo-soprano of George Benjamin's *Upton Silence*. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), Wed, 7.45pm.

ORCHESTRA OF THE OPERA DE LYON/WAGAN: British audiences will soon be seeing a great deal more of the young American conductor Kent Nagano, who has taken on the challenge of reviving the fortunes of the Halle Orchestra. In the meantime there is a chance to see what he has achieved with the Opéra de Lyon. Tonight Nagano conducts the opera's orchestra in Debussy's *La boîte à joujoux* and Malloire's *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*, with Anne Sofie von Otter and Thomas Mohr the soloists. Tomorrow there is a concert performance of *Madam Butterfly*, with a cast that includes Michèle Nakamura, Hak-Nam Kim, Vyacheslav M. Pokozov and Richard Stilwell. Symphony Hall, International Convention Centre, Broad Street, Birmingham (021-212 3333), tonight, tomorrow, 8pm.

VIENNA PHILHARMONIC: One of the world's greatest orchestras, this year celebrating its 150th anniversary, arrives at the Proms with two of the world's greatest conductors. On Wednesday Claudio Abbado conducts Haydn's Symphony No 93 and Mahler's Symphony No 1; on Thursday Pierre Boulez conducts a programme of works which occupy key positions in modern musical history: Debussy's *Nocturnes*, Bartók's *The Miraculous Mandarin*, as well as Boulez's own *Live pour cordes*. Royal Albert Hall, South Kensington, SW7 (071-823 9998), Wed, 8pm, Thurs, 7.30pm.

BBCSO/DAVIS: Andrew Davis conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in Sir Michael Tippett's moving wartime oratorio, *A Child of Our Time*. Sarah Reese, Jadwiga Rapka, Anthony Rolfe-Johnson and Willard White make up the impressive lineup of soloists. Before the interval, Russian pianist Tatyana Nikolova is the soloist in Bach's Concerto in D minor. Royal Albert Hall (see above), Fri, 7.30pm.

OPERA

YAN TAN THERIA: Harrison Birtwistle's pastoral fable, to a text by Tony Harrison, was first performed by Opera Factory in 1988 and celebrated the following year. To celebrate the company's tenth anniversary David Freeman's acclaimed production is revived for the first time. Mark Wigmore conducts the Premiere Ensemble. Geoffrey Dobson, Marie Angel, Patrick Donnelly, Harry Nicoll and Tom McDermott make up the cast of shepherds. Queen Elizabeth Hall (see above), tonight, Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, 8pm.

COSI FAN TUTTE: As comedies go, *Così fan tutte* is hardly stuff, and a performance that underplays the darker aspects can never do the work full justice. Jürgen Gosch's production, however, at least on its first outing at Scottish Opera a couple of years ago, could be accused of going to the opposite extreme and laying undue emphasis on gloom right from the start. Things may have changed in its revival by Graham Devlin. In any case, Nina Rittler's striking semi-abstract designs offer visual compensation. The lovers are sung by Anne Williams-King, Elizabeth McCormack, Kevin Anderson and Martin Higgins. Alfonso is Gordon Sandison, Desirée Sally Harrison. Justin

EVENINGS OUT KIT HESKEITH-HARVEY ENTERTAINER



6 I'd love to see the Staley exhibition at the Royal Academy. Profoundly provocative, his work is just well-painted and lovely to look at. I'd like to see *Grand Hotel*, although the thought of entering the Dominion—refurbished or not—sends a cold shiver down my spine. *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* which was at the Hampstead Theatre and is now at the Vaudeville has had incredible reviews: it uses the hostage situation to address wider issues. I'm potty about the Latin American music of the fifties and can't wait for *The Mambo Kings* to come to my local cinema, the Kings Lynn Majestic, a lovely old-fashioned picture palace. 9

Brown is the conductor Theatre Royal, Hope Street, Glasgow (041-332 9000), Wed, 7.15pm.

WIGGS GODUNOV: A semi-sung version of Opera North's splendid production of Mussorgsky's opera comes to the Proms. John Tomlinson gives his authoritative account of the title role. The cast, singing in English, also includes Jeffrey Lawton, Graeme Broadbent and Ann Taylor-Morley. Paul Daniel conducts. Royal Albert Hall (see above), Tues, 7.30pm.

ROCK

CHUIS DE BURGH: The smooth balladeer embarks on an extensive tour to promote his first studio album in four years, *Power Of Ten*. Martyn Joseph supports. BICC, Bournemouth (0202 297297), Wed, 7.30pm.

CONFERENCE CENTRE, ABERDEEN (0224 824824), Fri, 6.30pm.

SPINUALIZED: Their debut album, *Lazer Guided Melodies*, sums up the psychedelic, tripped-out approach of this exciting band. Wherehouse, Derby (0332 381169), Tues, 8pm. East Wing, Brighton Centre, Brighton (0273 202881), Wed, 7.30pm. Pink Torchbrus, Rayleigh (0268 770003), Thurs, 7.45pm.

UNIVERSITY, MANCHESTER (061-275 2930), Fri, 7.45pm.

SMASHING PUMPKINS: This rock-steady Chicago foursome, who have just re-released their first single 'I Am One', are renowned for their rousing live performances. They play at London's Town and Country Club next Saturday (Sept 12). International, Manchester (061-273 8834), Thurs, 8pm. Trent Polytechnic, Nottingham (0602 476725), Fri, 8pm.

JAZZ

OUTSIDE IN: This festival of jazz and contemporary music, now in its fifth year, concentrates on the wealth of talent in Britain. A particular highlight is eminent jazz composer Mike Westbrook's appearance with The Orchestra of Smith's Academy (tomorrow, 8pm), but treats abound, including performances by Bill Bruford's Earthworks, featuring Django Bates and Iain Ballamy (tonight, 6.45pm), the all-star improvisation Orchestra Tonight, 8.30pm) and Una Solo Voz combining Venezuelan dance theatre with Trevor Watts's Moire Music Drum Orchestra (tomorrow, 8pm).

THE HAWTH CENTRE, CRAWLEY, West Sussex (0293 553636), today and tomorrow, from 1pm.

EXHIBITIONS

ALFRED SISLEY: This show encourages a major reassessment of the artist's landscape art, and particularly of his work of the 1890s, when, the organisers contend, he arrived at his own version of the series painting, radically different from Monet's. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1 (071-439 7438), Daily, 10am-6pm, until Oct 18.

INVENTION THROUGH REASON, THE HOPES OF YOUTH: Possibly the lengthy title of the show derived from RAR's international painting competition reflects the aspirations of the company itself, which specialises in high technology engineering systems. Catch a similar company in Britain celebrating its 50th anniversary by sponsoring a prize for (as it turns out) Minimal and Conceptual Art. Overall winner of the 60 artists under 30 who were invited to Scotland's Callum Innes, whose mysteriously minimal painting evokes organic processes of staining and eroding. Other winners are three Italians, one American, and one British, Andrew Bick. Accademia Italiana, 24 Rutland Gate, SW7 (071-225 3474). Opens Wed, then Tues-Sat, 10am-5.30pm (Wed to 8pm), Sun, 2-5.30pm, until Sept 20.

IN THE ROUND/DESIGNS ON POSTERITY: The contemporary medal is a much collected but critically neglected art-form. The Fédération Internationale de la Médaille, founded in 1937, holds biennial exhibitions, and this year, the first to be held in Britain, brings together more than 1100 medals by 600 artists. 'Designs on Posterity' is a show of drawings for medals, from Dürer up to date, drawn mostly from the BM's own collections but with important loans. British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1 (071-323 8525), opens Fri, then Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2.30-6pm, until Oct 25.

JOHN HEARTFIELD: Born Helmut Heartfield, John Heartfield anglicised his name, not in exile from Hitler, but in Germany in the middle of the first world war, as a protest against German xenophobia. His satirical photomontages chronicled the rise of Nazism, and inevitably forced him into exile eventually; they have lost none of their cutting edge even today. Hence the title of the accompanying exhibition, 'The Cutting Edge', which looks at contemporary political satire. Barbican Art Gallery, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-588 9023), Mon, Wed-Sat, 10am-6.45pm, Tues, 10am-5.45pm, Sun, midday-6.45pm, until Oct 18.

THE ORDER OF MERIT: After the Order of Merit was founded in 1902, Edward VII thought it would be a good idea to commission portrait drawings of all 24 original members from William Strang. In 1988 the Queen decided to revive the custom, though this time commissioning different artists. With recent deaths and replacements, the new series now amounts to 27, and all are on show along with four of the original Strangs. With them is a show of the gallery's recent 20th-century acquisitions. National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (071-306 0055), Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm, Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2-6pm, until Sept 20.

GEORG BASELITZ - PRINTS 1964-90: This survey of the German artist's graphic work takes us

from his earliest images of shattered body parts to his Satyr prints featuring warriors with pambushes and latterly his sensual works, endlessly examining a single motif. Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (071-821 1313), Mon-Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun 2-5.50pm, until Nov 1.

SALEROOMS

TUESDAY-THURSDAY: The best Queen Anne and Regency furniture comes after sections of fishing rods, porcelain, silver, books, pictures and reproduction furniture in this sale of more than 2,600 lots. Lawrence, 80 High Street, Bletchingley, Surrey (0883 743323), Tues, 10am and 2pm; Wed, 8.30am and 2pm; Thurs, 10am and 2pm. **WEDNESDAY:** At Phillips an unusually good sale of glass and European ceramics for the time of year stars a previously unrecorded English blue and white delfware rabbit estimated at up to £45,000, 10.30am and 1.30pm. Also at 10.30am there is an icon sale at Christie's, South Kensington. Phillips 101 New Bond St, W1 (071-629 6602) Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Rd, SW7 (071-581 7611).

THURSDAY: Oriental porcelain and works of art, coins, jewels and silver should make a trip to Crewkerne worthwhile, 11am and 1pm. In London Christie's South Kensington also offer oriental works of art and ceramics at 10.30am and 2pm, while Bonhams Lots Road have a toy and doll sale that includes a collection of jigsaws. The master of creative cutting seems to have been A. Dinn of Spendon Derbyshire in the first decade of this century. His puzzles are estimated at up to £150 for five, 2pm. Lawrence, South Street, Crewkerne (0450 73511). Christie's South Kensington (see above). Bonhams 65-69 Lots Road, SW10 (071-351 7111).

FRIDAY: Works from the library of the late John Arlott are among the books and manuscripts at Christie's South Kensington, 10.30am. Christie's South Kensington (see above).

VIDEO

LA BELLE NOISEUSE - DIVERTIMENTO (Artificial Eye, 18): Fascinating two-hour digest of Jacques Rivette's hypnotic masterpiece about the painter (Michel Piccoli), his reluctant model (Emmanuelle Béart) and an abandoned Geneva that defies completion. 1991.

EAT A BOWL OF TEA (Connoisseur, 15): Deft comic portrait of Chinese immigrants in post-war America, centred round the tribulations of a new arrival brought to New York for an arranged marriage. Skillfully filmed with penetrating irony by the director of *Dim Sum*, Wayne Wang. 1989.

JFK (Warner Home Video, 15): Oliver Stone's electrifying three-hour drama about the Kennedy assassination: highly contentious as history, but riveting cinema. Kevin Costner as crusading D.A. Jim Garrison: a bustling supporting cast. 1991.

MY OWN PRIVATE IDAHO (Fox Video, 18): Gus Van Sant's quirky portrait of two drifters searching for a place to call home, with a little help from Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Striking and approposely by turns. River Phoenix, Keanu Reeves. 1991.

BOOKINGS



Lead player: Tony Slattery in the new *Radio Times*

MO MAN'S LAND: The Almeida Theatre Company is to present Harold Pinter's play in its first London production since its National Theatre premiere in 1975. First Swiss Spoorer for a drink in his luxurious house, but doubt linger as to whether the two men really know each other or are simply performing an elaborate charade. Harold Pinter is to recreate the role of Hirst, originally played by Ralph Richardson, and Paul Eddington will play Spooner, the role first created by John Gielgud. David Leveaux is the director. The Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, Islington, London N1 (071-359-4404). Opens Oct 29, until Dec 19.

RADIO TIMES: Set in the underground BBC radio studios in London's West End, 1940, is this new romantic musical comedy. It follows the fortunes of the cast and crew of a favourite variety show, which includes a Fortis heart-throb, the radio ventriloquist, and 'The Glamorous Groovers'. The show transfers from the Birmingham Repertory Theatre to London in October. Tony Slattery will take the lead role, with music by Noel Gay. Queen's Theatre, 51 Shaftsbury Avenue, London W1 (071-494-5040). Preview from Oct 9, opens Oct 15.

Film: Geoff Brown; Theatre: Jeremy Kingston; Classical Music: Opera; Ian Brunsell; Rock, Jazz: Stephanie Osborne; Dancer: Debra Crane; Exhibitions: John Russell; Video: Geoff Brown; Bookings: Sara Yelland; Salerooms: Huon Mallalieu

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THE TIMES

One damned thing after another

Looking back on telly people in torment makes for devilish entertainment, reports Lynne Truss on viewing *TV Hell*



SOMEWHERE along the line, I got so fixed on the idea that *TV Hell* (BBC2) would roast us on griddons in our own living-rooms that I stocked up on calamine lotion and warned friends to do the same. Oh woe, I said. The evening of bank holiday Monday will bring suffering and torment, death in life. Johnny Morris animal voice-overs; stop it. I can't take it, a black Gehenna of unquenchable *Nationwide*, burning from here to eternity while the bells of hell go ting-a-ling-a-ling, and the devil gets his tunes from the *Eurovision Song Contest*. In short, I expected *TV Hell* to be one damned thing after another, in the literal sense of the word.

Which just goes to show how simple-minded you can be. Because instead of beating us into the ground with the idea that hell is other people's idea of television entertainment (i.e., *That's Life*, *Jeremy Beadle*, the usual targets), Monday night took the novel line of entertaining us with other people's idea of television hell.

What torment it is, for example, to be the lowest-ever scorer on *Mastermind*, or to live with the stigma of producing *The Borgeas*. What a lake of fire for the executives of TV-am: what perdition for a mugging chat show host when the show refuses to chat. And, best of all, what colour for David Dimbleby, rendered bereft and empty-handed in the *Panorama* hot seat, settling unobtrusively in the corner of the screen awaiting something (anything) to announce.

Unlike Dimbleby, though, *TV Hell* beguiled the time brilliantly. Whether it also played devil's advocate is another matter. I mean, how do I account for my rapt enjoyment of the 20-minute *It's a Knockout* item? I loathed the programme in the old days. But did I write on the carpet screaming, "Not the bungee rope, for pity's sake, not that?" I did not. Instead I watched enthralled while those plucky teams from Tamworth or Darlington slithered on roller skates with buckets of water on their heads, and Stuart Hall laughed heartily at them for landing on their bums.

What ingenious games! If anyone was in torture, it wasn't me: it was the blindfold man in the drenched football jersey attached to a piece of elastic, attempting to

TV REVIEW

perambulate across a vat of foam. And besides, *It's a Knockout* suddenly seemed touchingly innocent and harmless and rather wonderful. I mean, good grief, the competitors didn't even have designer sportswear in those days.

The stroke of genius in *TV Hell* was to have Paul Merton say how much he liked it all. Otherwise the viewer at home, shouting "What ingenious games!" and singing along happily to his or her favourite pop record of all time ("Shaddup Your Face") would have felt left out. Guided around *TV Hell* by a demonic Angus Deayton ("Call me Damien"), Merton kept saying things like, "The great thing about Terry Wogan is that he was always really interested in the people he was talking to", and "I really admire Jimmy Savile, he's so good with children".

Deayton, sporting vaguely obscene stubby pink horns, winced at this nerdishness. His diabolical job was to ensure that programme standards were kept to the minimum, thus Merton's scary enthusiasm for bad television meant that Damien was having his sins visited upon him, in no uncertain terms.

Deayton had obviously been selected for this role for two reasons. First, he does an excellent impersonation of an exasperated cynic, and second, he really does pop up everywhere these days (rather like Old Nick himself).

TV Hell's final stroke of genius was to utilise the curved corridors of the BBC Television Centre for Damien's infernal domain, because as a cheap and handy visual metaphor for the arid circles of hell, those swing doors and carpet tiles are second to none.

Perhaps the funniest moments of *TV Hell* came from the re-showing of *Triangle* from 1981, a twice-a-week early evening BBC drama, starring Kate O'Mara, aimed at "the family with aspirations to glamour". The *Eldorado* of its day, *Triangle* was set on a real ferry ploughing the North Sea, and we were told by the shame-faced people involved in its production that viewers were supposed to be impressed by the exotic location. Casting an eye over the grey sides, windswept actors and doubtless vomit-spattered decks, the viewer was expected to say, "Gosh, I



Hell raisers: Angus Deayton (left), the demonic guide to BBC2's review of "television hell", and Paul Merton, who rather liked it all

wouldn't mind going on a ferry like that", rather as one might say, "Gosh, I wouldn't mind taking a flying-boat to some South Sea islands like that", only different.

What effect *Triangle* had on the fortunes of P&O was not revealed, but considering that the exotic ports visited by this ferry were Felixstowe, Gothenburg and Amsterdam, I doubt Alan Whicker ever went along to sample the casino.

The first episode of *Triangle* (voted worst programme in living memory by a poll of critics) made a brave stab at glamour by opening with a shot of Kate O'Mara sunbathing face down with her top off, but one could only assume her skin was coated in cooling fat against the northern blasts. After this, anyway, the action sensibly moved indoors, where the necessity for being on a real ship was drastically reduced. What the decor, acting and camerawork vividly called to

mind, actually, was *Crossroads*. You may remember the way each scene ended with someone looking pensive or significant, and the camera zooming in slightly (like a drunk, getting a better focus), to prolong and underline the mood of pensiveness and significance.

"Is it possible to get that on video?" Merton asked afterwards. "What a wonderful idea for a series — a ferry that goes between Felixstowe, Gothenburg and Amsterdam." He seemed extremely cheerful. As Deayton/Damien pointed out, hell is traditionally associated with suffering, but this element seemed to be passing Merton by.

TV Hell had shown him some pretty excruciating stuff: Bill Grundy's infamous live interview with the Sex Pistols; Selina Scott at the Booker prize-giving asking Fay Weldon (chairman of the judges)

whether she had read all the books; clips from Channel 4's appalling *Minipops*, where little girls, got up as brightly coloured jail-bait, gyrated and mimed to songs inappropriate to their extreme youth.

There are lots of cheap laughs to be got from old television if you just want to highlight the way mores have changed. *Saturday Night Clive* gets such laughs quite often (hoots of mirth at 1970s fashions and outmoded accents), but *TV Hell* largely avoided this pitfall. Instead, we got *Mainly for Men*, an untransmitted 1960s Chelsea boot of a magazine programme so gob-smackingly sexist that you could scarcely believe your eyes. ("I wonder why that didn't go out," Merton said. "Yes, I thought you might.") It featured a solo dance in which a blonde woman in a short, fluffy overall mimed a lot of

dainty housework, and ended by fondling a broom. And the show closed with a sultry brunette lying topless in extremely low light, smoking a cigarette very, very carefully so that when she raised her arm her breasts didn't move.

So, something for everyone there. These regular BBC2 compilation evenings get better all the time. The only trouble with *TV Hell* is that perhaps it has done too thorough a job, leaving the griddons empty for next time. The shock of seeing Robert Maxwell on a chat show doing his famous expansive Joe Public impersonation, aided by a simpering Sue Lawley, is hard to beat, diabolically speaking. "Send me £1," he said barefaced to the British public, piercing each viewer with a frisson of horror. It was like watching an old biblical home video of Judas saying casually, "Guys, I'm just popping out for a bit. I expect I'll see you all later."

TV PREVIEW

● **The House of Eliott** (Sunday, BBC1, 7.45pm) Earlier this summer, at the impressive BBC autumn drama launch (for journalists), my behaviour got a little out of hand. I'm afraid. It was during the trailer for the second series of *The House of Eliott*. Gazing at the screen in the darkness, I felt a huge lump in my throat, and I clutched the arm of the woman next to me. "Look at that hat," I said. "I know," she whispered back. "The hang of that coat." "Mmm." "Oh God," I gasped, barely resisting the urge to stand up. "What fantastic beading on that collar." I felt like clapping, but I seemed to be alone. Other people were evidently engrossed in the story-line, or the acting, or other such piffing matters. Some were also consulting the press release, which explained that, in this series, Beatrice marries Jack (hoorah) and the Eliott sisters travel to Paris on another brave new venture. But don't tell me that the glory of *The House of Eliott* resides in anything but its superlative period drollery, because I won't believe it. (The frocks!)

● **A Very Peculiar Practice** (Sunday, BBC1, 9.35pm) How odd of the BBC not to re-show the second series of Andrew Davies's *A Very Peculiar Practice*, when this play is a sort of sequel to it. Anyway, don't miss it. And a tip: take a notepad and start a list headed "Alfred Molina", so that you can keep tabs on the number of plays he appears in this autumn.

● **The Velvet Claw** (Monday, BBC1, 8.30pm) If someone asked you what a sarkastadon was, you'd be wrong to assume it had anything to do with merciless ridicule or academic life. The sarkastadon was a carnivore, one of those fanged mammals that tore flesh, and assumed the mantle of Top Species when the dinosaurs packed up. In *The Velvet Claw*, a seven-part series starting on Monday, 3D computer graphics and other technological whiz illustrate the point that big teeth are not always a disadvantage in life; and that it pays to be incisive.

● **Terry and Julian** (Friday, Channel 4, 10.30pm) Funny enough, the woman whose arm I clutched at the BBC drama launch was sitting in the next seat to me at the recording of this first *Terry and Julian* at LWT's studios, so we gaped together (quite loudly) at Julian Clary's very lovely costume, and may possibly be heard doing so on the soundtrack. I would describe *Terry and Julian* as a rough and ready not the sort of phrase Julian would read deeper meanings into, with all the mercy of a sarkastadon.

L.T.

Record review: June Tabor, Billy MacKenzie and Verdi's *Luisa Miller*

Simply rich and powerful

Charm school still beckons for Elvis Costello: "If you can't appreciate June Tabor, you should just stop listening to music," is his idea of advertising copywriting. But do not allow yourself to be alienated by Mr Angry's aggressive endorsement of the excellent British folk artist's latest LP, *Angel Tiger* (Cooking Vinyl/Cook CD 049).

Tabor's voice is a marvellous thing: rich, resonant and proud. Yet she deploys it with such sparseness and lack of embellishment that the listener is made to concentrate wholly on whichever lyric she is presenting, rather than being allowed to bask in some cosy, ambient glow.

This facility makes her a great medium for narrative songwriters and here, in addition to the traditional airs "Let No Man Steal Your Thyme" and "Ten Thousand Miles", she favours Billy Bragg, Richard Thompson and the under-rated Scottish writer Michael Marra, among others, with interpretations of their work.

Whether for matters of economy or good taste, only five

ROCK

musicians are used to offset the album's chief selling point, that wonderful voice. The result is a collection of intelligence and insight, heavy on stoic simplicity if, occasionally, in need of a good tune.

Its best moment comes with a song by Bob Franke, "Hard Love", telling of the emotional inarticulateness that can be passed from parent to child, blighting the relationships of each successive generation. Its economy of structure provides the perfect setting for Tabor's plain but graceful delivery, which itself assures a powerful but unforced impact.

Billy MacKenzie began his chart career on a high with *The Associates* ten years ago, and has enjoyed only sporadic and lesser success since. His latest solo LP, the clumsily titled *Outernational* (Circus/CIRC 22), suggests he has spent the intervening time isolated from other contemporary musicians, refining his own singular vision — chilly, European-influenced, dra-



Proud folk: June Tabor

matic but slightly dazed. This album is unlike anything else in 1992, a fact which provides both its charm and the potential for its downfall.

ALAN JACKSON

A show of Verdi strength

OPERA

Sony's *Luisa Miller* (SK 48 073), based on the production at the Met in New York, demonstrates just how unjustified is the neglect of Verdi's opera in Britain. The first act may be conventional, but once Verdi is into the plot of evil and ambitious nobles fouling the path of true love (loosely based on Schiller's play *Kabale und Liebe*) the score begins to carry his true voice.

Luisa herself requires a soprano with the vocal equipment of a *Violetta* in *Traviata*. She needs colouratura for her opening aria and then dramatic power for the following two acts. Aprile Millo scarcely pretends to be a high soprano and she has a hard time with Luisa's entrance — Caballe on Decca really sparkles in this number. But when Luisa becomes a typically wronged Verdi heroine then Millo shows her strength.

Even better is Vladimir Chernov as her father, the retired soldier Miller, although his baritone is so vigorously healthy that the army must have been loath to let so sturdy a fellow leave its ranks. Plácido Domingo comes to the role of Rodolfo for the second time on record: the first was on a distinguished DG set with Ricciardi and Bruson in top form as the Millers. Now, as then, he uses suave and aristocratic tones for the hero who has the double problem of a social-climbing father and a girlfriend from the lower orders. The rest of Sony's cast is solid: Jan-Hendrik Rootering as Rodolfo's father, Paul Plishka a bit bumpy as the aptly named villain Wurm, Florence Quivar haughty as Luisa's aristocratic rival. But there is a real plus in the conducting of James Levine, who produces full-throated Verdi as the deceptions multiply and the poison eventually flows.

GUILTY SECRETS: COURTNEY PINE

"I watch television all the time. The distraction helps while I'm practising; if I can play something again and again with the noise of the television in the background, I know that it has disappeared into my subconscious. If I could afford it I'd have four television sets, so that I could watch four channels simultaneously. I am addicted to *The Cosby Show*, because it portrays black families in a positive light. I met Bill Cosby in America; he's a jazz drummer as well as an actor. *The Cosby Show* is on Channel 4 at the same time on Sundays as *The Simpsons* is on Sky, so I video *The Simpsons* and watch it later; the daughter plays the baritone saxophone, so it's a must."

● Pine's latest album is called *Closer to Home*.



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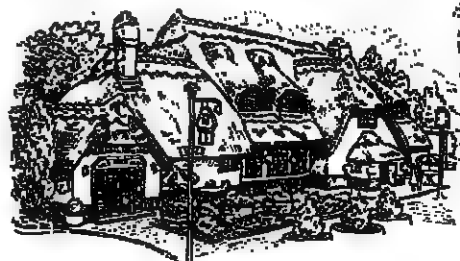
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THE Edinburgh Festival's C.P. Taylor season ends appropriately with dessert: this bittersweet chronicle of a family in second world war Newcastle successfully toured the north-east in the late Seventies before a short London run. At first glance a surefire hit for the nostalgia market, shot through with evocative wartime music, the play has roots firmly embedded in the Georgian character: warm, ebullient, affectionate and resilient.

Alan Lyddiard's production for the Newcastle-based Northern Stage Company unashamedly plays the nostalgia card: not just in the period tunes picked out by Dad at the piano with accompaniment by two musicians on a variety of instruments, but with projected archive film of Newcastle at war: the Home Guard, cheery women workers, tearful child evacuees, post-blitz rubble. Placed within this context, the work, a picture of small lives during great events, loses any soap opera connotations and becomes a chapter of dramatised history.

It also becomes touching theatre, thanks to the cast depicting the family at war (Mam, Dad, Grandad, two daughters) and its emotional crises. Mam is an excruciatingly devout Catholic. Dad goes communist. Grandad shuttles between relations with suitcase and cat basket, pretty

THEATRE

And a Nightingale Sang Churchill, Edinburgh

Joyce dithers and dramatises over marriage to soldier Eric.

The story is narrated by Helen, the older girl, lame and plain — improbably so, in Denise Welch's performance, radiant with good sense and optimism. Her affair with nice, helpless Norman ends when he returns to the wife and child he has kept secret. Joyce and Eric row and are reconciled, the family celebrates peace round the piano.

The dreamlike impressionism of Neil Murray's mottled grey and white design (even the piano) excuses and explains the work's soft centre. These are times both hard and happy recollected in tranquillity, after all, and retrospection softens the pain. At any rate, scepticism and disbelief are suspended thanks (among others) to Val McLane's noisily demonstrative Mam, Angela Lonsdale's vacillating Joyce and David Whitaker's mournful Dad with his fleeting, harassed resemblance to a smaller, younger Walter Matthau.

MARTIN HOYLE

Entertaining but straining the point

Els Jorglars
Royal Lyceum

HELPING the Edinburgh Festival into gear for its last lap, the secretary of state for national heritage showed considerably more animation at this spiky, surreal theatre group from Catalonia than the leader of the opposition had at the opera, perhaps because the Catalans are against large cultural institutions.

Set in a juncal asylum, *I Have an Uncle in America*, directed and created with the cast by Albert Boadella, is an allegory of cultural clashes, a dreamlike portrayal of the discovery of America and its subjugation by the conquistadors. Commissioned for Seville's Expo '92, it was dropped by the authorities, and has polarised opinion in Spain.

The content seems unexceptionable. During a therapy session, the mental patients come to identify with a central American tribe and see the hospital staff as explorers and invaders. Suddenly white-coated doctors and nurses become Renaissance hidalgos and their stately procession turns into superbly drilled flamenco dancing (seen as a symbol of Spanish cultural assertiveness), all the more powerful for its lack of musical accompaniment — occasional cattle drums, the defiant response of a *tenora*, a native Catalan wind instrument. Plainly the show is as much about a threatened Catalonia as a conquered America.

The 80 ropes that dangle from above transform the hospital gym into a tropical jungle. The drowsily uniformed patients are led by the

visionary Manolo, small, bulletheaded, compact with menace, and the nymphomaniac Paqui, obsessed with giving birth, through whose open legs the tribe passes in constant self-renewal. As in a nightmare, fantasy is superimposed on reality, the familiar and the extraordinary merge. The hypodermic syringes for the inmates' 6pm tranquilliser shots are perceived as Spanish swords in the natives' veins. A visiting health official is taken for Queen Isabella the Catholic, in turn portrayed in a mask of the present Queen Sofia.

Frequent laughter from Spanish speaking spectators underlined the paucity and inadequacy of the surtitles. The untranslated *double entendres* may add subtlety to a work that ends with disappointing heavy handedness as (north) American voices order the massacre of Indians and the destruction of the forest. And a reference to cathedrals built to impress poses the stylistic question of whether European culture merits destroying a world at one with its natural environment. This game — noble savage artificially pitted against civilisation, as if straight choices could be made between Amazon rainforest and peaceful tribalism on the one hand and Michelangelo and Mozart on the other — is best left to theatre directors comfortably long after the event.

M. H.

Benedict Nightingale reviews the premiere of Billy Roche's *Amphibians* at The Pit

Fishing for a lost world



Canning town: Sean Murray, right, the young tearaway of the factory, holding Richard Bonneville, his smug new boss, in *Amphibians* at The Pit

THIS is the fourth play that Billy Roche, the decade's brightest discovery, has written about his native Wexford; and in many ways it is the most troubled and elegant. What happened to the fleet that sailed out in daily search of herring? Pollution has left little worth catching except monsters covered with scabs. What is happening to the sense of community and cultural identity that even the town's brasher citizens seem dimly to feel? It is going, going, gone, like some tantalising song echoing away on the horizon.

Not that Roche lets nostalgia become mawkish. His central character may be the last fisherman in Wexford, or at least the only one still to be reduced to collecting crustacea for the local canning factory; he may have plans for his 13-year-old son that owe more to Celtic myth than to the 1990s; he may even be rather symbolically nicknamed Eagle. But his wings are clipped, and though he struggles a bit, he knows it. There is hardly a pore in Ian McElhinney, who plays the part, that

does not exude rueful awareness that he, too, will soon be caged in that factory, dragging sacks of mussels to be tinned by the women.

"It's ridiculous to say we shouldn't be unhappy, we're all unhappy," Eagle's sister Sonia (Lesley McGuire) remarks cheerfully; and, though the play has its quota of Roche's wry, Chekhovian humour, there is not a lot to contradict her. Barry Lynch's glowering Zak, Laila Roddy's dim, snickering Humpty, and the other young men lounge about at the factory gates. They wrangle, crack seamy jokes, pot the odd seagull with their catapults, and generally radiate impotent frustration.

A particularly strong performance comes from Sean Murray, playing a tearaway called Broaders, who can just about put up with no longer having his own boat, but begins to seethe when his smug new boss (Richard Bonneville) asks him to scrub the factory floor. Rage turns to violence and a last-act climax that clinches an unfashionable point: men are no longer allowed to be

THEATRE

men, and at some dark, inner level bitterly resent it. But Roche is not the sort of dramatist who idealises such ideas, or even makes them explicit. Indeed, a scene in which Eagle's son (Kevin Burke) mimes a shoot-out with a cowboy-obsessed factory-hand (Albie Woodington) is presumably meant gently to send up macho yearnings.

Nor is the decline of the fishing industry the townspeople's only concern. They have personal problems, too, plenty of them. All kinds of emotional undercurrents eddy beneath the houses and streets, like malign tributaries from the poisoned bay. Some are new, but many of them hangovers from a past that, as often in Irish plays, dog the present. Why did the wife of old Mosey (Liam O'Callaghan) get up one morning and walk to her death in the sea? Could there be a deeper tension between Eagle and his wary wife Veronica (Jane Gurnett) than his insistence on reviv-

cent boys are marooned for a night on an offshore island?

Roche has answers to those questions, and they emerge deftly, subtly, without dramatic ado. *Amphibians* is not, I think, as searching a piece as his *Belfry*, but it shows a similar gift for balanced observation. It is also not as negative a piece as it may sound. Suddenly a marvellous story, or a display of affection, or a song, or some nice eccentricity will bubble unexpectedly yet logically out of his unfolding plots. Occasionally a line seems to come more from Roche than his characters, but mostly his instinct for the incongruities of life itself is impeccable.

That vitality is robustly yet sensitively caught in what Michael Anenborough's direction ensures is a Royal Shakespeare Company production with a stronger-than-usual emphasis on "company". Together, the cast confirms what Roche's earlier plays suggested: here is a dramatist who can create individuals, evoke a world, and quietly communicate a sense of loss that more people than the Irish feel.

CABARET

Funny girl?

Sandra Bernhard
Festival Hall

FROM her entrance in a long, see-through dress, apparently stoned, stumbling past the microphone before drifting into "Rever", to her final exit, black swim-suited and cladly embracing her band, two hours later, Bernhard's return to London was a roller-coaster of music and humour.

Her reviews at the Edinburgh Festival had covered the spectrum from reverent awe to disgust. This is only to be expected. She takes care to expose her breasts while changing costume on stage, simulates sexual intercourse, uses the f-word and other expletives freely, and yet is capable both of moments of splendid anger and of outrageously funny fantasy.

She has a stronger voice than I recall from her London debut and her four-piece band, The Strap-Ons, is even better on second acquaintance. She is a gifted vocal mimic — her energy and imagination drive the show, but the musicians hold things together and occasionally upstage this magnetic entertainer.

Verbal assaults on individual British journalists aside, the programme differed little from last time. I enjoy her monologues and character vignettes more than anything else, but the brief and minutely accurate parody of "Justify My Love" and the New York audition sequence leading to a hilarious, touching version of "People" were highlights on Wednesday.

With "You Make Me Feel Mighty Real", and the soul rap leading into the long medley of "Lady" songs from "Who's That Lady?" to "Lady Lady Lay", she layered parody on parody on political point, wrapped up in faultless musicality. Her final show is tonight.

TONY PATRICK

Cuba comes to Soho

JAZZ

Irakere
Ronnie Scott's

EVERY time the Cuban juggernaut known as Irakere rumbles into town, there is a temptation to look for signs of metal fatigue: so much touring would, one might think, blunt the skills of even the most footloose players. Yet following their August residency at Ronnie Scott's club in Birmingham, the immaculately drilled mini-big band has begun its visit to Soho with its battery of percussion and brass still in impressive condition.

One of Havana's most successful post-revolutionary exports, the group grew out of an ensemble formed a quarter of a century ago in order to provide musical soundtracks for Cuban films. In the past decade the line-up has suffered the defection of two of its most charismatic soloists. But, despite the loss of the trumpeter Arturo Sandoval and the reeds player Paquito D'Rivera, the band is very much alive and kicking, and pianist-composer Chucho Valdez remains at the helm.

This brand of Afro-Cuban jazz can be traced back at least as far as Dizzy Gillespie's Latin orchestra in the Forties. Irakere's members have raised the form to enviable levels of technical proficiency, embracing an eclectic range of material without losing sight of their mission to entertain.

Few of their performances are likely to go by without the

players launching a mock-spontaneous conga procession from the bandstand around the confines of the club. Do not be deceived by the cruiser-line costumes: these are exceptionally resourceful musicians.

Whether based on traditional Cuban songs, calypso or jazz standards such as "Stella by Starlight", the interpretations seldom follow a fixed rhythmic pattern. Valdez undercuts the metre with astringent single note runs while playfully dropping quotes from other show tunes ("I Got Rhythm" was a particularly apt choice during the opening number). The reeds and brass players respond with acrobatic lines in the upper register delivered with razor-sharp intonation.

The band will be headlining at the Frith Street club until September 26. The support slot in the opening week was occupied by Christine Sullivan, a capable Australian vocalist with an unadventurous selection of ballads. British guitarist Jim Muller takes over from Monday.

CLIVE DAVIS

Architecture: Marcus Binney commends a new proposal by the Royal Academy of Arts

Designs on Burlington Gardens

Concord is rare in the embattled world of British architecture. But recently Piers Rodgers, secretary of the Royal Academy, won a surprise consensus for establishing a major new architecture centre at the RA.

Fired by the success of the Academy's new Sackler galleries, Rodgers and his president, Sir Roger de Grey, want to expand north into Burlington Gardens. The opportunity arises in three years, when the Museum of Mankind is scheduled to return to the British Museum into space vacated by the British Library. "We have written to the government declaring our interest in occupying the building," says Rodgers. The proposal depends on obtaining a long lease at a peppercorn rent, precisely the arrangement the Academy has on its main premises off Piccadilly.

The RA is acting in concert with the new Architecture Foundation, which has run a successful series of shows from a gallery beneath the Economist Tower in St James's, and is currently holding a big show of recent and proposed developments in the City at the Royal Exchange.

The RA's hope of getting Burlington Gardens depends on the fact that it is very much a public building, erected in the 1860s as the Senate House for London University, with a vast staircase and high ceilings not ideal for commercial use. "It's always been used for education and the arts and that's what we propose," says Rodgers.

The prime aim of the new centre will be to bring architecture and planning issues to the public. "Instead of the ghastly confrontations at public in-

quiries, we would offer a forum where proposals could be discussed at an early stage," continues Rodgers. "We could probably show competing schemes." To this end the Architecture Foundation will have a permanent 6,000 square feet gallery where it can display a large model of central London into which new proposals can be inserted and scrutinised.

This idea is taken from the *Pavillon de l'Arsenal* in Paris, which is constantly cited as an example but is mostly a showcase for new projects. "They never put on anything that is critical of architects or new buildings," says John Harris, an AF trustee.

Rodgers, however, insists the centre will stand outside the architectural profession and the property industry. "The Academy's position is that good buildings deserve to be preserved while bad ones don't deserve to be built. The new centre will not limit itself to London, but be international, mounting exhibitions jointly with architecture centres in Pittsburgh and Montreal."

Rodgers's timing is perfect. Even a year ago his proposal would have brought cries of trespass from the Royal Institute of British Architects. Throughout the 1980s the RIBA was developing ever more ambitious plans for an architecture centre at its Portland Place headquarters, latterly costing at £40 million.

But that scheme is now on "indefinite hold", and alarm bells are ringing for the future of the RIBA's superlative collection of architectural drawings, valued at £50-100 million, and far away the finest in the world. After much



Piers Rodgers: offering a "forum" for public debate

seemingly fruitless negotiation, it appears that it will now be without a home in just ten years, and may well soon go into permanent storage. Virtually all of Palladio's drawings as well as most major British architects over four centuries are included.

The RIBA also needs support for its magnificent library,

which now faces a 40 per cent cut in its book purchasing grant. For some years it has been called the British Architectural Library, giving the impression it is in some way part of the British Library.

The reality is that the British Library gets free copyright copies of every British architectural book, while the RIBA has to purchase them. There is further overlap with the National Art Library at the V&A Museum which purchases foreign architectural books. Yet in terms of the services it offers, not least open shelves to browse in, the RIBA is superior to the others.

With the Prince of Wales's new architecture institute opening in Regent's Park this autumn, London will have a wider range of architectural events than ever before. British architects are also riding high in world esteem. But it will be a tragedy if all this activity is at the expense of the two most valuable resources of all.

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P&O CRUISES

Veg with a meaty appeal

Frances Bissell, the Times cook, tempts meat-eaters with filling vegetable dishes



THERE are particular times in the year when I like to write about vegetables and other food which appeals to both vegetarians and meat-eaters.

This is one of them, when herbs, salad stuffs, tomatoes, beans, courgettes and all manner of vegetables are being produced almost faster than we can use them.

Although I am not a vegetarian, I cook at least as often without meat or fish as I do with them. Sometimes I use no animal products at all. If cooking paella, risotto or a favourite Sri Lankan meal of curry and rice, there is no cheese, milk, eggs, butter or fish or meat stock.

I have always felt that this balance has been reflected in writing this column. Now, putting together five years of material for *The Times Cook Book*, which will be published this time next year, I have evidence of this: the chapter on grains, pasta, pulses and vegetables is thicker than those for meat, poultry and game combined.

When I add in the chapter on egg and cheese recipes, plus the many recipes for soups, salads and starters that are not based on meat or fish, perhaps I can be forgiven for feeling a little put out at a letter I received recently. It was an invitation to visit a vegetarian cookery school, which I would be glad to do if I have the time; but implicit in the letter was the notion that I, as a carnivore, could not possibly expect to develop recipes for vegetarian readers, of which the writer reminded me, there is a growing number, as vegetarianism is on the increase in Britain. No doubt it was a letter from someone who does not read this column, but it rankled because I had just put together a selection of my favourite vegetable-based recipes.

Some of these recipes have interesting origins. I have used quinoa and lentils often — as a filling for filo pastry, in a savoury strudel — but the creamy yellow sauce was inspired by a visit to the

kitchens at The Dorchester. The staff were preparing for an outside function, lunch for 200 in a marquee on Smith's Lawn before the polo, and chef Willi Elsener showed me what they had planned as vegetarian main courses.

I liked the idea of the maize sauce to accompany courgettes stuffed with brown rice and lentil-stuffed red peppers: vividly colourful, light and flavoursome.

It is usually helpful to describe a dish with the name of its main ingredients, but "pod soup" is neither descriptive nor attractive, and "silly" is the word that comes to mind immediately with this chilled green soup, which I originally made with leftover vegetables from Sunday lunch.

Green silk soup
(serves 6)
6oz/170g sugar snap, mangelwort or other fresh peas in the pod
6oz/170g round or runner beans
4 lb/110g okra
fresh parsley and mint
2pt/1.15l stock
4pt/140ml cream or yoghurt
seasoning

Top and tail the pods and roughly chop them. Put in a saucepan with a handful of parsley stalks and a sprig or two of fresh mint. Pour on boiling stock and cook until the vegetables are tender. Allow to cool, then blend with the cream or yoghurt until required. Season to taste and garnish with fresh mint. The soup can be served hot if preferred.

Chilled carrot and tomato soup
(serves 6)
1 onion
4 lb/230g carrots
1 lb/455g ripe tomatoes
2pt/1.15l vegetable stock
seasoning
2tbsp silken tofu or fromage frais
chervil, parsley or watercress to garnish

This is best cooked in a non-stick saucepan to avoid an oily surface



on the soup. Chop or thinly slice the onion. Peel and thinly slice the carrot. Roughly chop the tomatoes, leaving two or three stalks on. Cook the vegetables together with a little stock until soft. Allow to cool. Put in the blender with the rest of the stock, in two batches. Process with the tofu or fromage frais until smooth. Sieve and allow to cool before refrigerating.

Herb and almond crisp
(makes 18)
1 free-range egg white
pinch of salt
2oz/60g ground almonds
1tbsp fresh herbs, finely chopped
1tbsp ground lemon zest
1tbsp cornflour
1tbsp finely grated hard dry cheese

Stir the ingredients together and spoon on to lined baking sheets.

Bake for 15-20 minutes in a pre-heated oven at 140C/275F, gas mark 1-2 until firm. Remove from oven and cool on a wire rack.

Quinoa and lentil stuffed vegetables with sweetcorn and onion sauce
(serves 6-8)
Filling
4 lb/230g quinoa
4 lb/230g lentils
water
6tbsp walnut oil
3oz/85g chopped walnuts
2 shallots, peeled and finely chopped, optional
sherry vinegar or lemon juice
salt, pepper

Put the quinoa and lentils in separate saucepans and add sufficient water to cook them. The quinoa will absorb 3-4 times its volume, the lentils 2-3 times. When cooked, drain and mix in a bowl, together with the oil, walnuts and optional shallots while still hot.

Season to taste with the vinegar or lemon juice, salt and pepper. Fresh herbs and/or spices can be added.

Vegetables
Aubergines, peppers, courgettes and large field mushrooms are all suitable for stuffing. Aubergines should be halved, scored on the surface and baked until the flesh is soft. Scoop out the middle, leaving enough of a casing to hold the filling. The rest of the flesh can be used to make an aubergine purée to be eaten on toast or with pizza bread. Courgettes can be halved and par-boiled before you scoop out the middle. Field mushrooms need only wiping or peeling, and the stalk should be removed. I prefer to skin red peppers before eating them, and so I bake them in a hot oven first, after which the blackened skin can be removed. If you do not mind the skin, simply cut off a cap, remove the seeds and blanch them for a couple of minutes in boiling water. Spoon the filling into the vegetables. Sprinkle with

breadcrumbs and a suitable grated cheese, if you like, and bake in a pre-heated oven at 180C/350F, gas mark 4 for 20-30 minutes, depending on the size and density of the vegetables. Meanwhile, make the sauce.

Sauce
2 or 4 sweetcorn cobs
4 shallots or an onion, peeled and finely chopped
2tbsp sunflower or rapeseed oil
4tbsp white wine
4pt/280ml stock
grated zest of a lemon
salt, white pepper

Shuck the corn cobs and drop in a pan of boiling water. Bring back to the boil, and keep there for 2-3 minutes. Drain, rinse under cold water and put to one side.

Gently fry the shallot or onion in the olive oil until soft and transparent. Add the wine and raise the heat until reduced. Add the stock, and cook gently until reduced by half. With a sharp knife, cut off the

kernels from the corn cobs and put in a blender with the shallot sauce and the grated zest. Blend until smooth and sieve into a saucepan. Bring to the boil and season to taste. You might like to add a drop or two of lemon juice, but the white wine generally adds a sufficient note of acidity.

Savoury chick pea custards
(serves 6-8)
4 lb/230g home-made hummus
3 free-range eggs
1/2pt/280ml milk

Beat the ingredients together to a smooth batter. Lightly oil ramekins and pour in the mixture. Place in a roasting tin containing about an inch of boiling water and bake for about 20 minutes in a pre-heated oven at 180C/350F, gas mark 4. The custards are cooked when a skewer or knife point inserted in the middle comes out clean. Remove from the oven and turn out on to a plate. The custards can be served hot, warm or cold.

A dram of best Irish

Jane MacQuitty believes the best whiskey does not have to be Scotch

Being Irish and biased towards the Emerald Isle's excellent whiskey-distilling traditions, I have always been irritated by the predominance in the past century of Scotch. It was the Irish, not the Scots, who invented *uisge beatha*, or the water of life. Yet somehow we let our superior whiskey-distilling knowledge slip in favour of the Scots' blending expertise.

Nobody knows how the complex art of distillation arrived in Ireland. The most credible theory is that Irish monks brought the skill back to Ireland from the Middle East in the 6th century, having learnt it from the Arabs who used stills to make perfume. However distillation came to Ireland, by the 12th century Irish whiskey was going down well with Henry II's English invaders. It continued to be known and enjoyed in England for centuries afterwards, with Queen Elizabeth I documented as a devotee. And it was her successor, James I, who granted the first distilling licences in Ireland.

Bushmills from County Antrim in Northern Ireland was granted its licence as early as 1608, which makes it the oldest distillery in the world. Scotland by comparison did not receive its first licence until more than 200 years later.

As well as being older, Irish whiskey could once also claim, and still can in my opinion, to be finer than Scotch. Dr Johnson noted: "... the Irish sort is particularly distinguished for its pleasant and mild flavour. The Highland sort is somewhat hotter."



Lasting flavour: Bushmills is the world's oldest distillery

Best Irish whiskey buys

- **Jameson**
Asda £12.29, Davisons £12.35, Tesco £12.49
This soft, rich, vanilla-scented, almost fruity Dublin whiskey is an easy-to-appreciate and widely distributed introduction to Irish whiskey. Try to track down its superior 12-year-old relative, Jameson 1780, whose deep, mature, spicy flavours are certainly worth paying extra for (Mills, £19.85).
- **Paddy**
Tesco £12.69, O'Donnell's £12.99
Cork and other southern counties' biggest-selling whiskey is another fine, spicy-earthy Irish whiskey. I particularly enjoyed its light, floral, barley scent.
- **Bushmills Ten Years Old Malt**
Asda £18.99, Waitrose £19.25, Tesco £19.35
Soft, mild, malty flavours distinguish Ireland's only single malt whiskey. Bushmills's gentle, fruity, ten-year-old palate is the finest by far of the three Bushmills whiskeys.
- **Midleton 1987 Very Rare**
Mills, 3 Greek Street, London W1, £69.35
Hard to find but a dream to taste. Midleton's endless selection, culminating in an annual production of just 50 top casks, produces an unbelievably good end result. Midleton's smoky-spicy scent and exceptionally smooth, velvety, fruity palate are worth its hefty price-tag.

1933. Irish whiskey producers could not fulfil America's needs. Scotland could, and its mellow blends must have been a welcome change to harsh boogie liquor.

Rough, raw poteen, though still made in Ireland and no doubt similar to the earliest *uisge beatha* whiskey, is very different from today's polished Irish spirit. It is hard to describe the taste of Irish whiskey, particularly when compared to Scotch; on the one hand it has a much softer

and smoother character, but on the other the proportion of unmalted barley in its mix gives all Irish whiskey an earthy, spicy base-note that is distinctly different in style.

Irish whiskey does, however, lack the strong, smoky-peaty flavours that distinguish Scotland's top single malts. For me, the finest Irish whiskeys have a wonderful soft, velvety elegance that the finest Scotch cannot match.

As the same components, barley and water, go into

Scotch and Irish whiskey, it is perhaps mainly the production methods that account for the difference in taste. Unlike the Scots, who dry their malted barley over peat fires, lending a powerful peat-reek to the end product, the Irish dry their malts in closed kilns to preserve the clean taste of the barley. They also use a mix of malted and unmalted barley.

In addition, Irish whiskey is triple-distilled in pot stills, also used by the Scotch single-malt producers, but their spirit is distilled only twice. Most Irish whiskeys now contain some lighter grain spirit in their mix like Scotch, but made by being distilled twice in a pot still and once in a continuous still. The one Irish exception to these methods is Bushmills Ten Years Old Malt, made entirely from malted barley and triple-distilled in a pot still. Due to its malted barley-only base, Bushmills Ten Years Old is the closest Irish whiskey gets, in terms of flavour, to Scotch.

Like Scotch, Irish whiskey is aged in oak casks, in Ireland's case for a legal minimum of three years, but mostly for between five and eight years.

For the past century, Irish whiskey has been appreciated by the Irish but by hardly anybody else. However, its popularity seems to be increasing. Last year we drank 4 per cent more Irish whiskey at home than the previous year. By comparison our take-home consumption of Scotch dropped by 13 per cent.

If you, too, feel like a wee Irish dram at home, the best way to drink it is cut 50-50 with a good still mineral water (see the box for the best Irish whiskeys available).

I am also fond of Irish coffee, made by mixing hot, strong, black, freshly ground coffee with two spoons of brown sugar in a warmed glass. Stir until the sugar has dissolved and add a measure, or two, of Irish whiskey before floating an inch of whipped cream on the surface. You could also try Ireland's version of a hot toddy, made simply by mixing a clove-studded slice of lemon with two teaspoons of brown sugar, a pinch of cinnamon and hot water in a warmed glass. Once the sugar has dissolved, add a measure or two of Irish whiskey, stir and sip slowly. *Slaime mhach*, or good health.

Learners rise to the occasion at an Irish cookery school with intensive care

Friends hooted when I told them of my intention. "You're doing a cookery course?" Then, an octave higher: "In Ireland?" It did not seem such a fatuous idea to me. I was leaving the literary agency where I had worked for the past 27 years and decided to join a beginner's course at the Ballymaloe Cookery School in co. Cork. I have never had a cookery lesson in my life: indeed I had hardly cooked a meal since my bachelor days in the early 1950s. I do not consider myself a wholly unconstituted male, but my wife is a serious cook, and it has suited us both that I kept out of the kitchen except for breakfasts and washing-up duties.

However, retirement or any kind of life change merits some special punctuation mark. I wouldn't say that learning to cook is fulfilling a long-cherished ambition. But I like the notion of having a few dishes I can call my own, and perhaps in time I'll acquire the skill to improve.

Darina Allen, who founded and runs the Ballymaloe Cookery School, is a star in Ireland through her *Simply Delicious* television series and its tie-in books. I had met Mrs Allen, who is bristling of energy, enthusiasm and Irish charm, at Ballymaloe House, her mother-in-law Myrtle's hotel two miles away. Guidebook editors should note, perhaps, her favourite hotels, but I love Ballymaloe, which is for me a platonic ideal of a country house hotel.

Mrs Allen's style of cooking owes much to her mother-in-law, whose *Ballymaloe Cook Book* has been a much-thumbed book on my wife's cookery shelf. You might call it sophisticated rustic. They are both passionate about using the best and freshest ingredients — animal, fish or vegetable — and finding ways to enhance their natural flavours.

The school runs cookery courses throughout the year, for professionals and amateurs. Subjects include vegetarian, barbecue and fast food, and entertaining. And once a year it has a week for beginners: the one for me.

The course was all that I hoped it would be, and more. I had forgotten how carefree students are, particularly if there are no exams looming at the end. To be 500 miles from your natural habitat, and with a new set of colleagues, added



Recipe for after-school relaxation: croquet on the lawn of Ballymaloe House hotel, co. Cork

Scoffing at Ballymaloe



Having a crack at cooking: Hilary Rubinstein goes to work

to the holiday high spirits.

We lived in small, pine-clad cells in self-catering cottages, with curtains and duvet covers by Laura Ashley. There was a comfortable lounge, and a kitchen/dining-room with all mod cons. All round the estate were fresh flowers — in beds, baskets and tubs. Free-range chickens ranged freely.

There were 44 of us on the course. I had feared that I might have been the only bloke: so, I discovered, had each of the other 11 male

novitiates. I also worried that, at 66, I might be decades older than the rest. I was, I reckon, the oldest student, and almost 50 years separated me from the youngest, but there was a sprinkling of middle-aged folk. There was no ageism.

Lessons took place in the afternoon, and then, pairing off, we endeavoured to make a selection of the dishes the next morning. At lunchtime we ate communally what we had made — triumphantly, if the morning had gone well for us.

We learnt lots of basic skills in addition to recipes, and our herb-consciousness was significantly raised. Butter and cream also played prominent roles. "Into every day must come a little cholesterol", was one of Mrs Allen's blithe aphorisms. I wasn't surprised that she had dropped her course called "No butter, no cream, no booze".

The cooking, so simple when demonstrated, proved very different in the execution. The kitchens were like intensive care units, with consultant cooks always at hand to resuscitate a soufflé, to give the kiss of life to an ailing pastry or to suture a sagging stuffed loin of pork. There were always comforting words if the life support system did fail: "It's not a mistake to make a mistake."

At the end of the week there was euphoria, with an oh-what-a-wonderful-week-let's-do-it-all-again enthusiasm.

We had had a high old time, and learnt lots, and it was serious and hedonistic at the same time. But the real test will come later. When I am ready to dish up, will my friends who have come to mock stay to scoff?

HILARY RUBINSTEIN

● The author is editor of *The Good Food Guide*, the 1993 edition of which will be published on September 25 by Macmillan, price £14.99.

● Ballymaloe Cookery School, Shanagarry, Cork (010 353 2 164 6785).



In the first of a series on Irish cookery, Clare Connery celebrates the island's renewed confidence in its indigenous products and traditions

Living off the riches of a beautiful land

Ireland is an island of conflicting images. It is a land of fertile rolling plains, immense black bogs and hauntingly beautiful mountains. It is a place of peace and tranquillity, yet also of ancient feuds, warring people, death and destruction.

It is a land which is at once simple and pastoral, yet developed and industrial, with one foot in the soil and the other in the factory. Even Ireland's most sophisticated cities, such as Dublin, Belfast and Cork, have a capacity to merge the quiet and calm of the earth with the harshness and clamour of industry, giving them a rather countrified feel. Yet all too often it is only the negative images of Ireland and its people that are portrayed, colouring opinions and masking the true nature of the country and its inhabitants.

In spite of such images Ireland remains a noble country, a land of milk and honey, of fortitude and courage, where most people continue life as normal, retaining their characteristic humour and tenacity of spirit, and remaining caring and dignified in spite of their difficulties.

Ireland offers a quality of life that is unsurpassed in the rest of Europe. While continuing to develop along with their fellow Europeans, these traditionally pastoral people still closely adhere to the principles of home and family, which are an integral part of Irish life and society. Indeed, within the home, whether it be an elegant town house or a humble country cottage, the importance of the family is just as strong now as in the days when the hearth was at the heart of it and the hub around which all life revolved. Although today the hearth is physically absent from many modern Irish houses, the kitchen is still the focus of family life, the centre of activity and the place where body and soul have been sustained and nourished for generations. It was here, in the original Irish kitchen, that life was lived, the day's activities discussed, friends entertained, music played, stories told and the world put to rights.

Amid all these extraneous activities, food was stored, prepared, cooked and eaten. In the most humble homes, food was for sustenance only and was cooked with whatever equipment was available. In the more remote parts of Ireland, as in many peasant societies throughout the world, this is still the case today. In the houses of those of greater means, whether in town or country, food for sustenance was still an important factor, but in addition eating was a companionable activity, so much so that, from one side of the globe to the other, the Irish have become renowned for their laden tables and generous hospitality.

Although Ireland has never been noted for having a sophisticated eating tradition at any stage in its history, it none the less has an enviable reputation for good, wholesome dishes made from a wide range of unadulterated, indigenous products, most of which still offer the finest quality to be found in Europe. In recent years too, in both family homes and commercial kitchens, cook and caterer alike have developed a new awareness of the dishes of our ancestors, and a confidence not only to recreate and enrich our native culinary tradition, but to develop a new Irish food culture from this island's lavish bounty.

In every town and village there is a local speciality. It may be the bread and cakes of the northern counties, the rich milk and dairy produce of Tipperary and the central plain, or the fine variety of fish and seafood from the rivers and lakes throughout the country and off its shores. Wherever one goes, from the most remote and lonely headland in Donegal to the towns of the southernmost tip of the island, fine local produce will grace even the most humble of tables.

Over the next few weeks we celebrate the rich and ancient food traditions of a beautiful land.



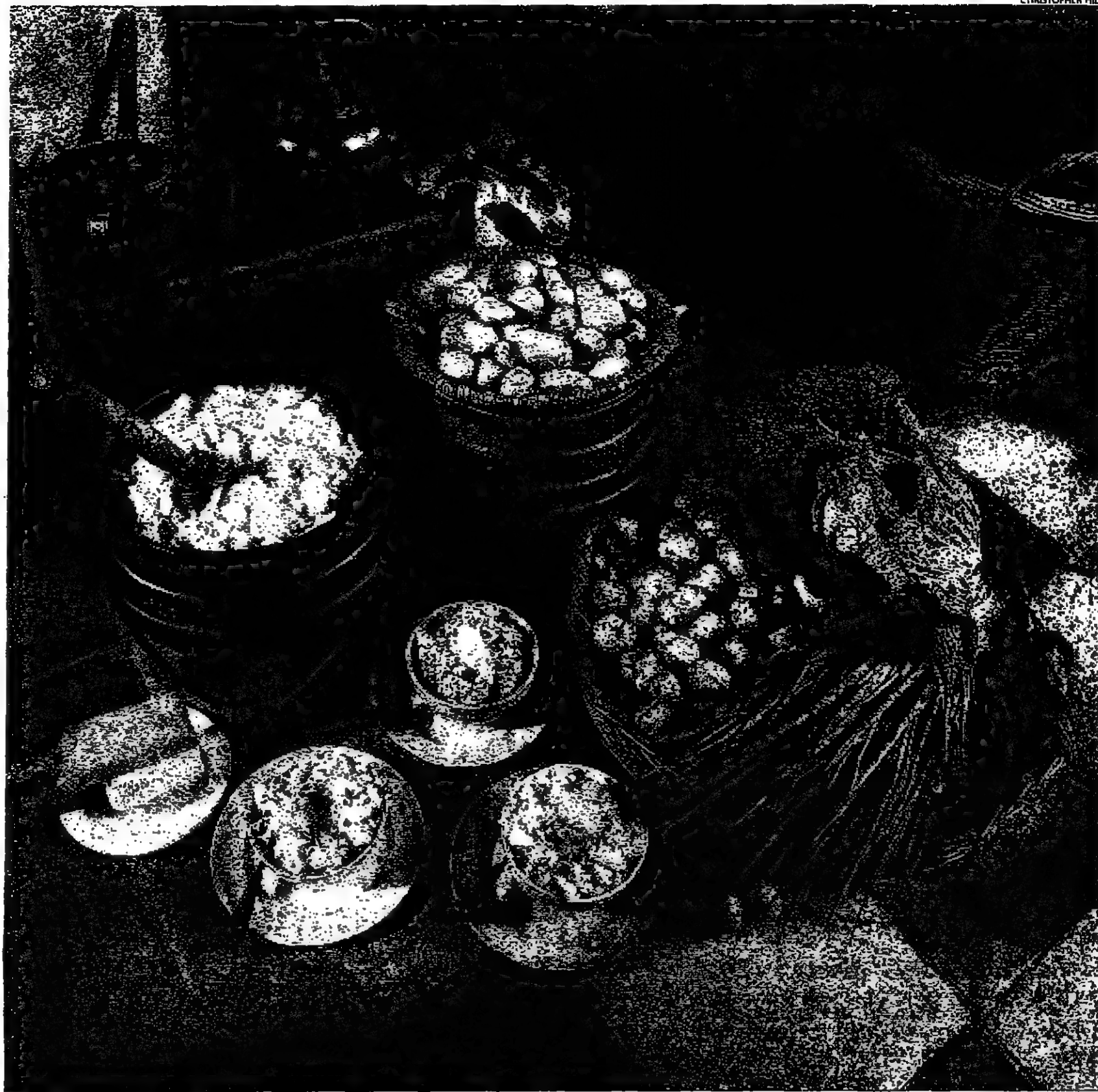
LEEK AND OATMEAL BROTH

"Brochan Roy" - Brochan rose ("Broth fit for a king")

This was one of the original potages made by the ancient Irish. The name is taken from the Gaelic word for broth, with the "Roy" a derivation of the Irish "Rí" meaning king. The soup is also referred to as Brochan folclach after the main ingredient, leek. This is definitely a meal soup, a bit like a vegetable porridge.

(makes 2½ pt/1.5l, serves 6-7)

8oz/125g leeks (2 medium size), white and green parts
2oz/50g butter
2oz/50g flake oatmeal
1½ pt/900ml vegetable stock or water
150g/450ml milk
salt and freshly milled black pepper



In an Irish country kitchen: here life is still lived, friends are entertained and stories told while the business of food preparation continues unabated

pinch of ground mace
2tbsp/30ml parsley, finely chopped

Trim and wash the leeks well to ensure that all the grit and soil has been removed. Shred finely across their length. Melt the butter in a large saucepan and add the oatmeal. Fry gently until well toasted, then stir in the stock and milk. Bring to the boil and add the leeks and seasoning. Simmer for 30-45 minutes until the leeks are tender and the oatmeal cooked. Adjust the seasoning, serve sprinkled with parsley.



BOILED BACON OR HAM

Bacon Brúille

This, at one time, was a very popular dish with most families and although not cooked so frequently now, it is still very much part of Ireland's culinary repertoire. The cuts of bacon most widely used are the shoulder, the collar or a piece of unsliced streaky bacon from the flitch. The type of bacon used and the quantity is largely dependent on what can be afforded. Ham is cooked in the same way, but because of its superior quality and higher price it is generally reserved for special occasions. Both the bacon and ham can be bought pale (unsmoked) or smoked.

(serves 8)

4lb/1.75kg joint of bacon or ham
selection of root vegetables, such as 1 onion, 1 carrot, 2 sticks celery
2 bay leaves
few parsley stalks
8 peppercorns
6 allspice or juniper berries

Soak the joint of bacon, or ham, overnight in cold water in the refrigerator or a cold larder. The next day, drain the ham and put into a large saucepan with enough fresh cold water to cover it. Bring to the boil, then throw off this first boiling water along with the scum that will have formed. Wash out the pan, rinse the joint, and

begin again, covering the meat for a second time with fresh cold water.

Add the washed, peeled and quartered vegetables along with the herbs and seasoning. Bring the water to the boil, then reduce the heat until the liquid simmers. Cover and cook for 25 minutes per 450g (1lb) until the meat is tender and the skin can be easily removed. Allow the bacon or ham to cool slightly in the cooking liquor, then lift out and peel off the skin. Serve in slices with parsley sauce (see recipe), cabbage and potatoes.

Note: A 1.75kg (4lb) joint of ham or bacon will yield approximately 10-20 slices depending on whether the meat is carved hot or cold, plus a 150g (5oz) tail piece which is ideal for adding to a chicken and ham pie.



PARSLEY SAUCE

Aislinn Peirisile

This is one of the most popular sauces in Ireland. It is the perfect accompaniment to boiled bacon or ham, boiled tongue, mutton or chicken, as well as poached or baked salmon and other fish. Where possible the liquid used should be from the meat or fish being cooked, with the addition of a little milk to enrich it.

(serves 8)

¾ pt/350ml stock - mutton, ham, beef, chicken or fish as appropriate
50g/150ml milk
small piece of onion
1 bay leaf
blade of mace
6 peppercorns
2oz/50g butter
2oz/50g plain flour
1tsp/5ml lemon juice
3tbsp/45ml parsley, finely chopped
Salt and freshly milled black pepper

Mix the stock and milk together and add the onion, bay leaf, mace and peppercorns. Bring to the boil then remove from the heat and leave to infuse for 15 minutes. Strain.

Melt the butter, stir in the flour and gradually blend in the warm milk to form a smooth sauce. Bring to the boil, then reduce the heat and continue to cook for a few minutes to thicken the sauce and to cook out the flour. The consistency should resemble thick cream. Stir in the lemon juice and parsley and season to taste.



CHAMP, CALLY, POUNDIES AND PANDY

Bratinn

All these names are given to very similar versions of one dish, most commonly known all over the world as champ. It is the traditional way of serving mashed potatoes and is perhaps the best-known and most popular potato dish in Ireland. Champ was a favourite meal on Fridays and fast days, particularly during Lent. It is also associated with Halloween, the festival which marks the end of the rural year on All-Hallow's Eve, October 31, when it was the custom to place the first two portions of champ on top of the flat post at the farm gate for the fairies.

(serves 4)

2lb/1kg potatoes
salt
50g/150ml milk
4 spring onions or scallions, finely chopped
freshly milled black pepper
2-4oz/50-100g butter

Wash the potatoes and boil in their skins in salted water until tender. Drain and dry over a low heat, covered with a cloth. Peel and mash well. Put the milk and chopped onion in a saucepan, bring to the boil and simmer for a few minutes. Gradually add to the mashed potatoes and mix well to

form a soft but not sloppy mixture. Divide between four warm plates or bowls, make a well in the centre, add the butter and serve immediately.

Note: Sometimes a raw beaten egg is added to the centre of the potato along with the butter. Chives, parsley, young nettle tops, peas and broad beans can be substituted for the scallions; the nettle tops, peas or beans are first cooked in the milk.



PARSNIP CAKES

Crist Meenan Ban

These make good accompaniments to roast meats, particularly pork and ham or fried sausages and bacon. Parsnip croquettes are made in a similar way, but shaped into small logs and deep-fat fried. This is the recipe my grandmother made with home-grown parsnips.

(serves 4)

1lb/450g parsnips, cooked and mashed
2tbsp/30ml plain flour
salt and freshly milled black pepper
pinch of ground mace
1tbsp/15ml butter, melted
1 egg, size 2, beaten
8tbsp/120ml breadcrumbs
butter or oil for frying

Combine the mashed parsnips with the flour, seasoning and butter in a large bowl and blend well. Mould into flat round cakes, about 6cm (2½in) in diameter and 1-2cm (½-¾in) thick. Dip into the beaten egg, toss in breadcrumbs and fry in a frying pan in the hot butter or oil until golden brown on both sides. Drain well before serving.

● Taken from *An Irish Country Kitchen* by Clare Connery, to be published on September 17 by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, price £19.99. © Clare Connery 1992

NEXT WEEK: Living off the water

A table laid with precision

We tend to be either formal or extremely informal. If we ask people to dinner, we call it a dinner party and it's formal. If we ask them to drop in for supper, it's informal. We like things to be very organised and to know what time people will be arriving and whatnot.

We think it's important that people should know what they're in for and that, even if the first course is particularly nice, they shouldn't go mad and leave no room for what you've gone to great pains to make for the main course.

We've got a round table for entertaining. Actually it's a fake. We couldn't get a big enough round table for under two thousand quid, so we had a table-top made from blackboard, fitted it on to the little mahogany table we had previously, covered it with a nice cloth and now it seats eight or ten comfortably.

My wife, Polly, who is half French, always does the cooking. No question of that. I can't do anything in the cooking line very well, although when left on my own I rather like fooling around frying quails' eggs and bacon. No, my role is the butting and helping to lay the table. I am very fussy and always make sure the glasses line up. My wife says I'm like a Chinese waiter because I can never resist moving a glass or a fork a quarter of an inch. So while my table laying

ENTERTAINING AT HOME



FRANK MUIR

may not be beautiful, it's always spot on geometrically.

I choose the wines carefully, but at Sainsbury's prices. The great trick is to find a cheap drinkable wine. If you pay twenty quid for a bottle of red, obviously it's better than a five quid bottle. But if you can find a good £3.50 bottle, then that's marvellous.

A favourite dinner party dish of ours is a recipe Polly got hold of years ago. Its official name is American Hot Chicken Salad, a sort of casserole of chicken which you cover with squashed potato crisps. Our name for it comes from the time our daughter Sal brought a couple of schoolfriends for Sunday lunch and afterwards one of them wrote us a thank-you letter which said, "Darling, darling, Mrs Muir, thank you very much for the Chicken Do-up". It became our word for it at once.

For puddings, we have this little ice-cream machine, a proper one, not just a stirrer, because they don't work. There's all this berry fruit in the garden and one of Polly's specialities is fresh raspberry ice cream... quite different from those shop-bought concoctions.

Frank Muir's Chicken Do-Up
1 medium size chicken casserole with herbs, sherry or cider
10oz tin Cream of Chicken soup
1 cup diced celery or cucumber
2tsp minced onions or chives
¼ cup chopped almonds
¼ tsp each salt and pepper
1tbsp lemon juice
2tbsp salad cream
3 hard-boiled eggs
2 cups crushed potato crisps

First, remove all meat from the chicken and dice. Cook almonds and onions in a little butter. Mix all ingredients together. Bake in a hot oven (gas 7) for 15 minutes, then scatter squashed crisps over the mixture as you dish up.

Interview by Paddy Burt
● Frank Muir Retells Goldilocks and the Three Bears will be published by Conran Octopus on Dec 24 (£5.99).

On September 23rd, buy rare gems and drink them.

At our next Wine sale there will be names that just roll off the tongue. Yquem '21, Cheval Blanc '45 and '47, Haut Brion '59, Gruaud Larose '61. Classics of past years that are perfect for drinking today. This is just a foretaste of a magnificent collection featuring Châteaux and vintages that have become legend.



CLOSING DATE FOR OUR NEXT SALE: 25TH SEPTEMBER. Wine sales at Sotheby's always attract top buyers. And command top prices, too. Perhaps you have some hidden treasures tucked away beneath your feet. We are now preparing our 18th November sale, so please contact Serena Sutcliffe on 071-924 3287 as soon as possible. Your fine wines could be just what the serious buyer is thirsting after.

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WHERE TO WALK

On the heritage trail

Dublin is a good city for walking, with heritage trails well sign-posted and descriptive guides available from tourist offices at £1 each. Guided tours led by Tour Guides Ireland set out three daily, until the end of the month, from Bewley's Museum at the Oriental Café on Grafton Street and at 11.30 each morning from the Dublin Writers Museum, Parnell Square (details: 679429, dial 010 353 1 for Dublin).

Dublin buses and the DART (Dublin Area Rapid Transit) trains provide easy access, though, to the Dun Laoghaire Way, a series of seven walks around the borough of Dun Laoghaire, the seaside town and ferry port southwest of the capital. The walks are fully signposted, and an information leaflet is available for each. The one for Sandy Cove includes the James Joyce Museum in Sandy Cove Martello Tower, and that for Dalkey, which adjoins the walk I have chosen (and could be added to it) visits Colliemore harbour and passes George Bernard Shaw's cottage on Torra Road.

For scenic value, though, I have selected the Killiney walk, which starts from the Druid's Chair pub in Killiney village, terminus for the number 59 bus from Dun Laoghaire harbour and about 20 minutes on foot from Killiney DART station. The pub is on a sharp rise, with a view south to the Vale of Shanganagh. It is possible to take a short cut straight away by entering Killiney Hill Park by the steps opposite the bus stop. To use the formal entrance to the park, though, go a couple of hundred yards along Killiney Hill Road and turn in by the park's wrought iron gates and the tower entrance lodge. The bronze sculpture confronting you, of a figure crouched for flight, is called *Thus Daedalus Flew*. Follow the metal path towards the summit of Killiney Hill, which is marked by a large obelisk raised in 1742 to provide work for the poor of the district during a specially harsh winter. From the east facade of the obelisk we look down on Killiney Bay, which was constantly compared during the 19th century to the Bay of Naples. To the left is the headland, with a terrace of Victorian houses, actually

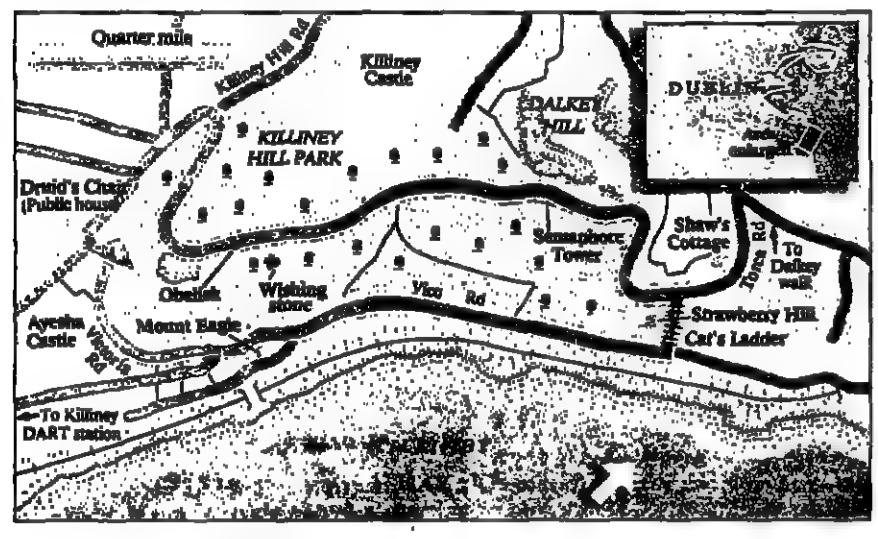
called Sorrento Point, and off that Dalkey Island with its Martello tower, and the remains of an early Christian church. On clear days it is sometimes possible to see the mountains of Wales on the horizon.

Moving to the south side of the obelisk there is a view of the Wicklow and Dublin mountains, and from the west of Dublin and the Two Rock and Three Rock mountains. The north side faces Dalkey Hill, clad in gorse on the sea-facing slope and with a Semaphore Tower built during the Napoleonic wars on its summit. Nearby is a multi-level structure known as the Wishing Stone, built in 1852, and a smaller obelisk known as Boucher's.

Take the path to the right that leads down into the dip between Killiney and Dalkey Hills, and head for the summit of the latter with its radio beacon and Semaphore Tower. Over a wall in front lie the Dalkey Quarries which supplied the granite to build Dun Laoghaire Harbour, and the remains of the railway, known as "the Metals", which carried the stone down to the shore. The view extends over Dublin Bay to Howth Head.

Follow the path along the cliff wall, which brings you to the Car's Ladder, steps which lead to the Vico Road. Before descending you may wish to descend on to the Dalkey walk, or at least to visit Shaw's Cottage a little further up the road. Descending the Car's Ladder brings an Italianate house, Strawberry Hill, into view. Turn right at the bottom, and divert after quarter of a mile to go down steps crossing the railway to Whitearch. There was a lead mine here in the 18th century.

Climbing back up the steps notice the railway embankment wall uses mica schist and granite, two local stones, to pleasing effect. As you turn right up Victoria Road there is a good view of Mount Eagle, the stone mansion built for the local landowner in the mid-19th century, and on the left off Victoria Road is Ayesha Castle, another of his houses. The gardens stretch to the arch at the top of the road, through which the path returns to Killiney village and the Druid's Chair. You may want, as they say, "to go in for the one".



HOW TO GET THERE

MY PREFERRED route from London is by Ryanair, using Stansted, much calmer and quieter than Heathrow where Aer Lingus, and British Midland provide services. Many Airlines fly from Liverpool. By sea B&I sail Holyhead-Dublin and Sealink Holyhead-Dun Laoghaire. The Irish Tourist Board (Bord Fáilte) is at 150-151 New Bond Street, London, W1Y 0AQ, (071-493 3201). Dublin Tourism's offices are at 14 O'Connell Street (747733). Dublin airport (376387/375533) and St Michael's Wharf, Dun Laoghaire (2806984).

WHAT TO BUY

BEST buys in Dublin are knitwear and clothes by Irish designers in linen, wool or tweed. Irish crystal (Dublin as well as Waterford), jewellery of Celtic designs, antiques, and edible souvenirs such as soda bread, furb cake, and oak-smoked Irish salmon. There are four great department stores: Clery's of O'Connell Street, Arnott's of Henry Street, and Switzer's and Brown Thomas, both in Grafton Street. The best of Irish design and crafts are stocked at the Kilkenny Design Shop in Nassau Street. Shopping, page 10

WHAT TO DO

Cycling: City Cycle Tours, 1a Temple Lane, Temple Bar (715606/715610) arranges cycling tours of the city, £10 (about £10) including hire of bike and helmet. Golf: There are more than 25 18-hole golf courses around the city, several on a pay-as-you-play basis. Horse riding: There are eight equestrian centres and riding schools in the city and its close surrounds. Theatres: The Abbey Theatre (748741) is Ireland's national theatre, presenting Irish classics, with the Peacock Theatre (787222) alongside for new and experimental work. The Gate Theatre (744045), now presenting Brian Friel's *Mouth in the Country*, has a more international repertoire. The Gaiety (717177) is reviving John B. Keane's comedy *The Man from Clare*.

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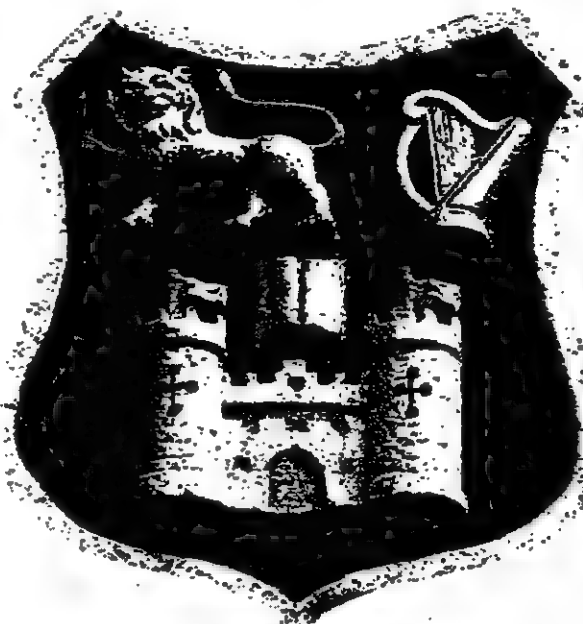
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BEST OF IRELAND

DUBLIN

Robin Young enjoys the bittersweet humour and maudlin charm of a city intoxicated by words and theatre



Symbols of Dublin: the coat of arms and James Joyce

Dublin's writers do not give the city an entirely good press. Dean Swift described himself as "dropped in wretched Dublin". George Bernard Shaw complained of the "flippant, futile derision and belittlement" peculiar to the place, while W.B. Yeats berated it as "the blind and ignorant town". James Joyce wrote to a friend: "How sick, sick, sick I am of Dublin. It is a city of failure, of rancour and unhappiness. I long to be out of it."

And so he was as soon as he could, but now he and those other discontented penpushers pull as many people to the place as do the Guinness, the pubs, the music, or the horses.

Discounting Leichenstein, the Irish Republic has the most modest capital in Europe. Yet Dublin is ancient enough to have been described by Ptolemy in AD140, has produced three winners of the Nobel prize for literature, given us the nocturne, and witnessed the first performance of Handel's *Messiah*.

Dublin's run of international theatrical successes extends from J.M. Synge and *The Playboy of the Western World* to Brian Friel's *Dancing at Lughnasa*, yet until 1923 the Abbey Theatre was never filled, and when *Junno and the Paycock* was presented at what was then the first state-subsidised theatre in the English-speaking world, its unprecedented run lasted just two weeks.

It was the combination of small-town mentality and passionate creativity that was at once the writers' inspiration and their despair. *Playboy of the Western World* was greeted with riots because an Irishman used the word "shit" on stage. Two decades later there was a similar reaction to *The Plough and the Stars* because the national flag was shown in a pub in the presence of a prostitute.

Like arguments in a close-knit family, the rows were intense and hurtful. Theatre and real life are forever tangled in Dublin, where the stages are peopled with street Irish and the streets teem with stage Irish. Making their acquaintance in bars and cafes, and enjoying the intoxication of their talk, is still like stepping into a literary work in progress.

Just how close-knit and familiar Dublin society is can be illustrated with a couple of examples. Brendan Behan's uncle wrote the words to the Irish national anthem; his brother-in-law did the murals in Davy

Byrne's pub. Many of the most striking pictures in the national and municipal art galleries are by W.B. Yeats's father, John B. Yeats, and the poet's brother, Jack B. Yeats.

Small towns have advantages. Visitors comfortably encompass Dublin's sights in a few hours from an open-top bus caught outside McDonald's in Upper O'Connell Street. The driver's wry jokes (pointing out the fountain of the Liffey goddess, Anna Livia, as "the whore in the shower" or "the floozy in the Jacuzzi") and the statue of Molly Malone as "the tart with a cart" and asking "the Dublin Chamber of Commerce — are you sure you can stand all this excitement?" will help to introduce you to the bittersweet humour and maudlin charm of what is at once one of the shabbiest and most elegant cities I have seen.

Though the scale is small and provincial, the buildings are invested with a nation's history and an island's parochial pride. The architect James Gandon (London-born but Dublin-captivated) who gave the city its finest architectural showpieces, the

twice-destroyed Four Courts, the graceful Custom House, the extended Parliament House (now Bank of Ireland), and the King's Inns, was invited by Catherine the Great to help build St Petersburg. He declined. He was too busy enlarging the Guinness brewery.

The architecture is a plus for the centuries of British rule. What the Irish have done since liberation gets, and largely deserves, the tourist bus drivers' scorn, but gracious Georgian porticoes and ornate fanlights survive even in houses that have been reduced to semi-dereliction.

One such, now acquired for redevelopment, at 24 Upper Merrion Street, is the unmarked birthplace of the Duke of Wellington, who tersely belittled his Irish origins with the aphorism: "If a man is born in a stable, that does not make him a horse." He is nonetheless monumentally commemorated with the 60m Wellington Testimonial obelisk in Phoenix Park. A Georgian Heritage Trail is one of three walking tours of Dublin signposted from the front gate of Trinity College.

itself so English that when the makers of *Educating Rita* wanted an English university they decided this was the best they could find. The college is celebrating its 400th anniversary this year and in its exhibition space, the Colonades, boasts its fellows' formidable contributions to the fund of human knowledge and understanding.

Above, in the reverential atmosphere of the vast, brown Long Room, all polished wood and leather bindings, visitors stoop to examine the intricate illumination of the 1,200-year-old Book of Kells, which was already "chief relic of the Western world" in 1007, when it was stolen from its monastic home and found three months later buried "under a sod".

The other signposted walks starting from Trinity are the Old City trail going through Temple Bar, an area of cobbled, narrow streets now being revived as "Dublin's left bank" (and recently used in the Tom Cruise film *Far and Away* to represent 19th-century Boston), to Dublin Castle, confined and chaotic symbol of the British yoke; and the Cultural Heritage trail round the north side's Gandon masterpieces, crossing the Liffey by the cast-iron footbridge which properly carries Wellington's name but is invariably referred to as the Ha'penny Bridge from the amount of its original toll.

The best of the Georgian city survives around Fitzwilliam, Merrion, Mountjoy and Parnell Squares, and in individual town houses of the nobility. A couple of Georgian houses have now been renovated as period-piece hotels and No 29 Lower Fitzwilliam Street has been meticulously restored as an exposition of what comfortable town-life was like two centuries ago.

Two 18th-century mansions known as Newman House on St Stephen's Green, Nos 85 and 86, were connected to form Cardinal Newman's Catholic University. Gerard Manley Hopkins was a lecturer and occupied what is now a ladies' lavatory. Now that Newman House has been restored by University College, Dublin visitors may be astonished by how well the extravagant stucco-work and ceilings have survived a century of student occupation. No 86 is also the former home of a typical Dublin rake, Buck Whaley, who walked to Jerusalem to win a bet.

No 18 Parnell Square North has delicious decorative plaster-

work in the Adam style and a fine ceiling by one of Dublin's foremost stucco-dressers, Michael Stapleton. This is the house which has been restored to become the Dublin Writers Museum, showcase of the literary tradition that is all around.

You can still find your way round Brendan Behan's Dublin, or James Joyce's. From voluntary exile Joyce kept his topographical details exact by bombarding his brother with written questions. Joyceans start, as Ulysses does, at the Sandycove Martello Tower by the Forty Foot "gentlemen only" bathing place, now the James

Plan a pub crawl: see the Liffey

work in the Adam style and a fine ceiling by one of Dublin's foremost stucco-dressers, Michael Stapleton. This is the house which has been restored to become the Dublin Writers Museum, showcase of the literary tradition that is all around.

Town house hotels take on the challenge

Many travellers are opting for individual accommodation

The town house hotel arrived in 1906, when César Ritz referred to his new Piccadilly property as his "small house". Today the concept is back, welcomed after the jet-age spawning of large, featureless chain hotels with rooms no more than nightly filing boxes, identical from Manhattan to Manchester.

Travellers are weary of hotels high on price and low on service, with "have a nice day" greetings, queues to check in or out and huge conference groups

BEST HOTELS

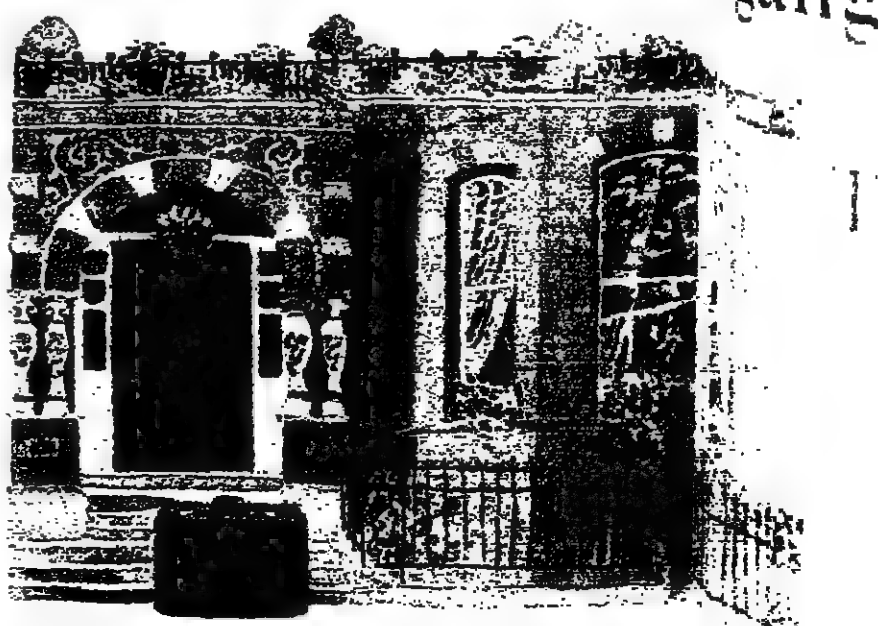
swamping individuals. The town house hotel, in contrast, provides small, secluded havens of comfort, amiable individuality and the anonymity and protection of a private house. Many do not bother with names, just an address — London's 11 Cadogan Gardens and 22 Jermyn Street, for example — giving guests the illusion of staying in the homes of rich friends.

Inside styling is distinctive, reflecting, as a house does, the character and tastes of its owner. Anouska Hempel at Blake's provides fantasy hideouts; high-ceilinged rooms with black-draped four-posters on black and white floors, or all cream and cool cotton with plain wood floors. One Devonshire Gardens in Glasgow has dark, tartan-draped four-posters. Egerton House has a restrained classic country-house interior. The Beaufort is more chintzy with flowers and English watercolours.

The Sloane is peppered with owner Sue Rogers's antiques. Her large rooms have beds like silken pagodas; surfaces scattered with Edwardian silver-backed brushes, Victorian scent bottles, or leather-bound books.

Not all have been fashioned from former homes of the wealthy. In Leeds, 42 The Calls was converted from old grain warehouses, and now original working beams contrast with Persian rugs and antique furniture. The Falkin in London was custom-built at a cost of £25 million by the Ongs of Singapore. The most "high-tech" of town house designs, it has black corridor walls curved around hidden doors, and touch panels to operate everything from dinner lighting to electronic wall-to-wall curtains.

The Dorchester, for example, has 252 rooms compared to the Egerton House's 30. Dorset Square Hotel's 37, Beaufort's 28 and the Sloane's 12. The smaller size means owners can give the hotels a more personal character. Scented candle smoke drifts through The



Sloane. Tim Kemp, the owner of Dorset Square Hotel, the Pelham and Dorset House, loans his vintage Bentley to guests and there are grand pianos in several rooms. Henry Togni, at 22 Jermyn Street, puts best-seller lists in the rooms and sends round to Hatchards for guests' reading needs. Jeremy Mogford, of the 30-roomed Old Parsonage in Oxford, is a keen gardener and has fashioned an intimate little patio and roof gardens on different levels of the hotel.

Despite the elegant settings, the staff tend to be informal. Most town house hotels have women managers encouraging house party atmospheres, appreciated by single travellers. Diana Wallis's drawing-room, with its 24-hour free help-yourself bar, is a relaxed socialising point for Beaufort guests.

David Naylor-Leyland, the owner of Egerton House, says town house hotel success comes from eliminating what customers do not want: restaurants, bars and health clubs. By cutting them out, staff, overheads and room rates are reduced.

Flexible eating rather than rigidly timed restaurants is one of the benefits of town house hotels. Many offer 24-hour room service of light, imaginative menus. The Sloane says it is small enough to be able to provide food to each client's preferences, and an organic menu is served in a rooftop room with a sun terrace. At 22 Jermyn Street, meals from nearby restaurants are sent for, but it also provides a restaurant guide with swift-dial numbers programmed on the phone. At 42 The Calls, guests can sign for



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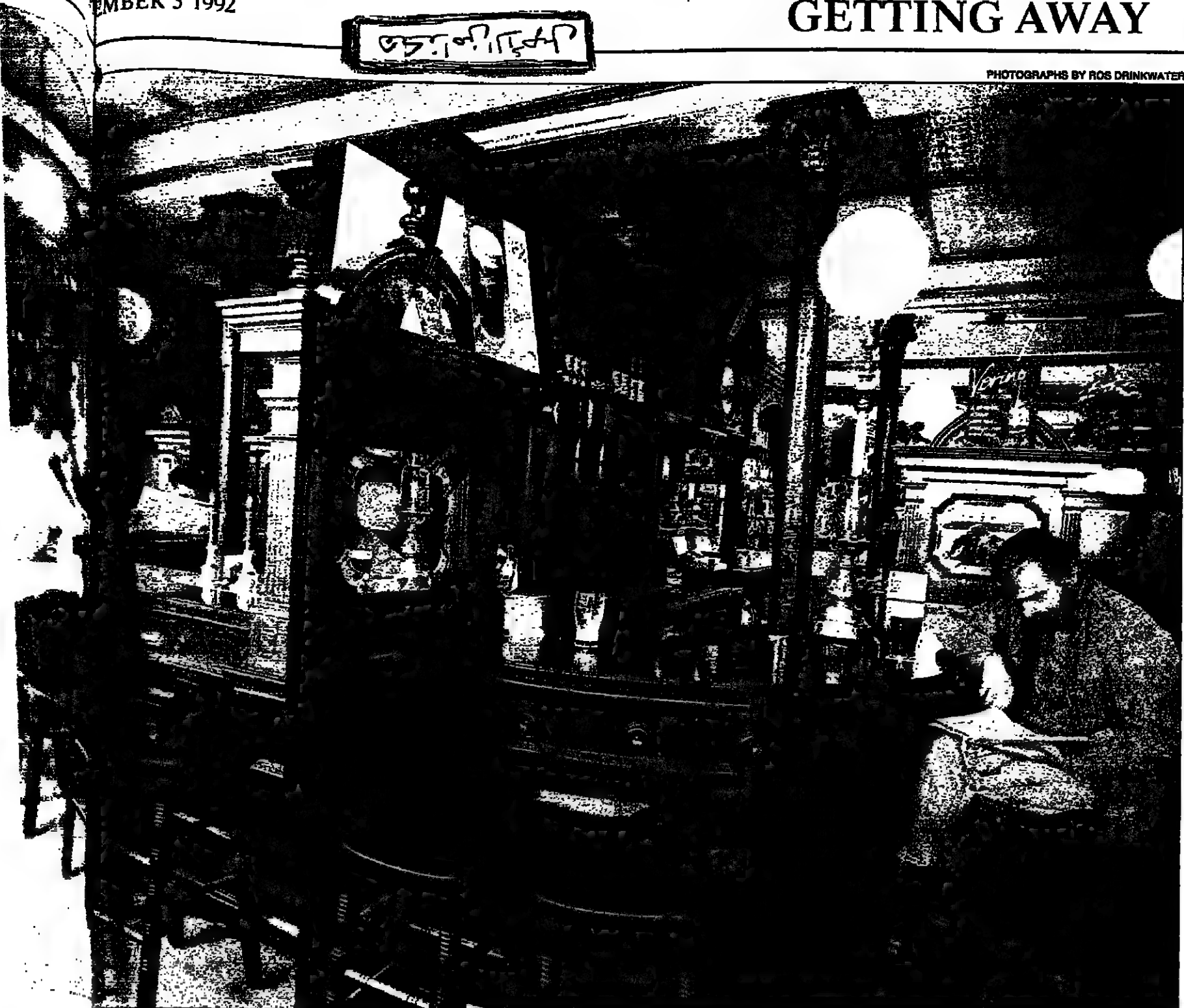
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PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROS DRINKWATER



are as much a tradition as Guinness in Dublin. Sink a pint aplenty at Ryan's of Parkgate Street in Victorian surroundings unchanged since 1896

WHERE TO EAT Food and fare trading

- **Patrick Guilbaud**, 46 James Place, Lower Baggot Street: A serious, stylish and spacious restaurant run with French professionalism and meriting the only star which Michelin awards in the city. Pricy wine list and à la carte. Set lunch £17.83, dinner £28.75 (764192).
- **The Antic Room Seafood Restaurant**, 20 Lower Baggot Street: Oysters, mussels, lobsters, prawns, plus game and beef, with traditional Irish music. A la carte lunch about £10, dinner £17.50 (604716).
- **Chapter One**, 18/19 Parnell Square: Basement restaurant at the Dublin Writers Museum serves lunches and both pre- and post-theatre dinners. Lunch menus £8.25 and £11.50 (732266/732281).
- **The Commons**, Newman House, 85/86 St Stephen's Green: Vogueish basement restaurant. Customers during my visit included Paul Newman and Tony O'Reilly (newspaper magnate). Set lunch £17, dinner £27.50 (752597/752608).
- **The Grey Door**, 22/23 Upper Pembroke Street: The cooking is a mixture of Russian and Scandinavian with cordon bleu embellishments (and good home-made brown bread). Set lunch £16.31, dinner £25.88 (766890).
- **Restaurant na Mara**, Dun Laoghaire, co. Dublin: Smart seafood restaurant in a fine building which was the ticket office of Dun Laoghaire's railway station. Set lunch £14.66, dinner £25.50 (2-806767).
- **Elephant & Castle**, 18 Temple Bar: Fun food venue for meals from £5 to £15 (6793121).
- **Trocadero**, 3 St Andrew's Street: Popular casual restaurant. Chicken Kiev and Irish stew are among the specialities. Dinner à la carte about £18 (6792385).
- **Café Caruso**, 47 South William Street, is in same ownership with similar menu as Trocadero (770708).
- **South Bank**, Martello Terrace, Sandycove, co. Dublin: Popular seaside restaurant specialising in large, rare steaks, and a cult place for Bloomday breakfasts. Dinner is about £15 (2-808788).



Café culture: sandwiches and street life

- **Beshoff's**, 14 Westmoreland Street: Good fish and chips in something like an Edwardian oyster bar (778026).
- **Gallagher's Boxy House**, 20 Temple Bar: Almost unheard of, traditionally Irish cooking (772762).
- **Bewley's Oriental Café**, 78/79 Grafton Street (424211), (also branches in Westmoreland Street and South Great George's Street): A Dublin institution ranked by judges from the Council of Europe alongside the Cafés Flore in Paris and Sacher in Vienna. The Grafton Street branch was once Whyte's Academy, where the Duke of Wellington and Richard Brinsley Sheridan went to school. There is a café museum up the back stairs by the toilets. Try for a window table upstairs on the Grafton Street frontage for a view of Dublin street life while enjoying oak-smoked salmon sandwiches, cakes and coffee, or the Fleet Street end of the Westmoreland Street branch for Edwardian ambience.
- **Pubs**: those serving better than average food are Ryan's of Parkgate Street, The Stag's Head in Dame Court, and Killy O'Shea's in Upper Grand Canal Street.
- All prices are given in Irish pounds

WHERE TO STAY Enjoy Irish hospitality

- **The Westbury**, Balfe Street (down Harry Street off Grafton Street): Top-class, comfortable and efficient international hotel, conveniently located. Single room £120, double £135 (6791122).
- **The Shelbourne**, St Stephen's Green: A Dublin institution, where the Free State constitution was drafted. The Lord Mayor's Lounge is the place for tea, the Horseshoe Bar a centre for political gossip and chat. Single £100, double £125 (766471).
- **Longfield's Hotel**, Lower Fitzwilliam Street: Attractive, centrally placed hotel in a restored Georgian town house. Single rooms £85, doubles £99, including enormous Irish breakfast (761367).
- **The Georgian House**, Lower Baggot Street: Restored Georgian town house with 34 bedrooms with bathrooms en suite. £39.60 a person (618832).
- **Number 31**, 31 Leeson Close, off Lower Leeson Street: Five en-suite rooms in two news houses skilfully converted by the architect Sam Stephenson. Warmly recommended, book in advance. £38 single, £48 double, with breakfast (765011).
- **Avalon House**, 55 Aungier Street: Budget accommodation in a converted Victorian medical school. Bed and breakfast from £7 (dormitory) to £17.50 (single room) (750001).
- **Dublin International Youth Hostel**, Mountjoy Street, also welcomes non-members (301766/301396).
- **Trinity College Dublin**: From mid-June to the end of September 750 single and double apartments are available in the college. £28 per person b&b or £43 with en-suite facilities (7021177).
- All prices are given in Irish pounds.



Peak-hour pedestrians: Grafton Street



Take refuge at the top-class Westbury

museum. Joyce shared the room briefly with Oliver St John Gogarty in 1904, fleeing in less than a week because he was seduced by his room-mate's sister with a revolver. The current exhibition at the Dublin Museum even displays a letter from Beckett's Dublin, which Beckett himself was so fond of his rare, reluctant to let it go to his home town that he never physically left. He enjoyed what Beckett cannot be called the Dublin Literary Pub Crawl, which, for two more only this year, convenes at 10pm in the upper room

of The Bailey in Duke Street. The Bailey is the pub whose poet-publisher, John Ryan, rescued the door of Leopold Bloom's fictional home in *Ulysses*, No 7 Eccles Street, from a bulldozer's skip, and preserved it. The pub crawl is arranged by three young actors who, with the aid of two black felt hats here, a flat cap there, and a cravat for Oscar Wilde, bring to life the wit and wisdom of Dublin classics in fitting locations round the centre of the town. The repertoire varies with the itinerary, but you might get a passage of Leopold Bloom's perverted musings at Davy

Byrne's, the "moral pub" where Bloom enjoyed his lunch of a glass of burgundy and a Gorgonzola sandwich on Bloomsday, June 16, 1904; a reading from Patrick Kavanagh at his former lodging place, Neary's; a passage from *Juno and the Paycock* on the way to Mulligan's in Poolbeg Street; the Bard of Boonstown's passage to "a pint of plain" outside the Palace Bar in Fleet Street, where R.W. Smylie's literary salon sank pints aplenty; or a bout of Brendan Behan outside McDaid's in Harry Street, where that tragic broth of a boy sought inspiration and inebri-

ation simultaneously with his typewriter wedged between the beer glasses. Not all Irish writers were pub crawlers though. Dean Jonathan Swift reckoned: "No men in Dublin go to taverns who are worth sitting with", and W.B. Yeats felt much the same. Toner's in Lower Baggot Street is the only Dublin pub Yeats is known to have visited. Dragged along by Gogarty, the poet drank one sherry in the tight little snug to the left of the front door and said: "Now I have seen a pub. Please take me home." Almost opposite Toner's, at Doherty & Nesbitt's Edwardian

snugs, glazed partitions and bar stools are so well patronised by civil servants and academics that the pub is said to have given rise to its own school of economic theory and analysis. Across the traffic lights O'Donoghue's in Merrion Row, the Guinness-coloured birthplace of The Dubliners folk group, is still the most popular and raucous centre for traditional Irish music. The oldest pub in Dublin is The Brazen Head on Lower Bridge Street, where Robert Emmet, Wolfe Tone and the United Irishmen plotted; the most ornate the Long Hall on South Great George's Street, a blaze of chandeliers, lamps, mirrors and shining woodwork; the most perfect Ryan's of Parkgate Street, where Victorian atmosphere and fittings have not changed since the last refitting in 1896. As to which serves the best slow pint of Guinness or offers the best "crack", that I will leave you to discover for yourselves.

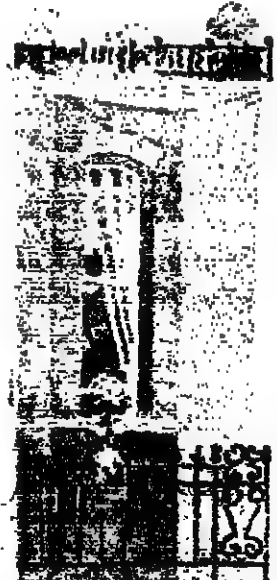
● **Next week, Best of Britain:** The Lake District

WHAT TO READ

THE most readable and engaging guidebook is Insight Cityguides' *Dublin* (APA Publications, £10), though Brian Lalor's *Ultimate Dublin Guide: An A-Z of Everything* (O'Brien, £6.95) is more conveniently arranged for rapid reference. A small, lightweight book is Hugh Oram's *Dublin: The Complete Guide* (Appletree Press, £3.95). *The Bridgestone 100 Best Places to Eat in Dublin 1992* by John and Sally McKenna (Estragon Press) is £4.99. The best reading list, though, must be Dublin's literature: *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, *Dubliners*, and *Ulysses* by James Joyce; *As I was Going Down Sackville Street and Tumbling in the Hay* by Oliver St John Gogarty; *Remembering How We Stood* by John Ryan; *At Swim-Two-Birds* by Flann O'Brien; *Strumpet City* by James Plunkett.

in gang

DIANA LEADBETTER



comfort of a teddy bear. Tipping is discouraged and the staff are paid more accordingly.

THE attractions of individual ambience and attention plus sensible pricing are ensuring the future of the town house hotel. It has outgrown its "nouvelle cuisine boarding house" label. Occupancies of more than 80 per cent are reported by the Beaufort, Egerton House and the Old Parsonage. Mr Naylor-Leyland is shortly opening the 40-roomed Franklin in South Kensington, and town house hotels are blossoming in many big cities, providing an elegant alternative to chain hotels, where guests are merely "bed-night" computer statistics.

CAROL WRIGHT

HOTEL ADDRESSES:
The Beaufort, 33 Beaufort Gardens, London SW3 1PP (071-584 5252)
Egerton House Hotel, 17-19 Egerton Terrace, London SW3 2BX (071-589 2412)
11 Cadogan Gardens, Sloane Square, London SW3 2RJ (071-230 3426)
Blakes Hotel, 33 Roland Gardens, London SW7 (071-370 6701)
Dorset Square Hotel, 39-40 Dorset Square, London NW1 6QN (071-723 7874)
22 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6HL (071-734 2353)
The Cadogan, Sloane Street, London SW1X 9SG (071-235 7141)
The Sloane Hotel, 29 Drycourt Place, London SW3 2SH (071-581 5757)
The Halkin Hotel, 5 Halkin Street, London SW1X 7DJ (071-333 1000)
42 The Calls, Leeds LS2 7EW (0532 440099)
Old Parsonage Hotel, 1 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6NN (0865 310210)
1 Devonshire Gardens, Glasgow G12 0UX (041-339 2001).

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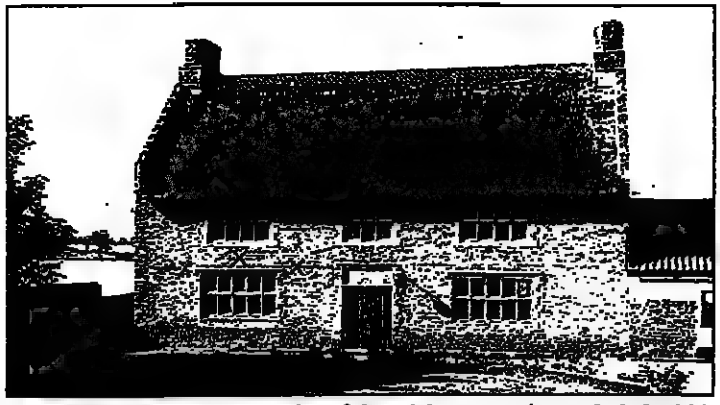
HOUSE HUNTER

John of Gaunt's Hall
Gimingham, Norfolk

Whether John of Gaunt would recognise the hall which bears his name in Gimingham, on the north Norfolk coast, is doubtful: after all, the hall dates from the second half of the 16th century, about 200 years after his death. But local legend has it that the hall was built on the site of John of Gaunt's hall. John of Gaunt was second only to the king in the amount of land he owned, and the medieval serfs who tended it would receive their weekly wages in the pay-yard, where the eastern gable now stands.

Although a hated figure in medieval East Anglia, John of Gaunt's name is no longer feared by the local villagers: quite the contrary, according to the present owner Lilian Tuplin, who has been mistress of the hall for 11 years: "This house is important to them," she says. "It's on the village sign

Solid home with a legendary name



Original assets: the guide price of the 16th-century house is £195,000

and the locals are proud of it. John of Gaunt matters to them."

Any new owner would have to like the isolated position of the house in this quiet parish. To the front of the house is a large shingle drive with a double garage to the side. "I had it built in the style of a Norfolk barn, so it would look in keeping," Mrs Tuplin says. Next

door to the garage is a small orchard area with a prolific apple tree and a slightly younger apple tree.

The rectangular, oldest part of the house is built east-west of red brick in English bond, rising two storeys to a thatched roof with brick gables. The house's solid, almost chunky shape makes you feel that it

is likely to see out the next century, too. A modern extension at the west end provides a self-contained area.

Entering the house through a large double doorway, a small inner hall directs you to a drawing-room to the left and a large kitchen to the right, with late 16th-century square floor tiles throughout. The drawing-room has the original beams and a facade of cobbled flint on the walls.

The windows, in brick rendered over, are a particular feature with painted glass inlays. The most striking window, on the narrow upstairs landing, has an inlay of medieval glass depicting John of Gaunt's coat of arms. The stained glass is a feature throughout, even in the kitchen, where the lead windows are encased in the original exposed brick. The self-contained annex is approached through the kitchen by a half door. Upstairs are the three main bedrooms, the largest of which has a wood-burning stove; the smallest has a staircase up to a loft area which could be converted.

The listed Grade II house needs little, if any, further restoration. The guide price is £195,000.

GILL ELLIOTT

Further enquiries: Bidwell's Norwich office (0603 763939).

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LAKE COMO

Property prices around Lake Como vary, largely depending on location. The prettiest and most expensive region is at the centre, where Como appears to be three separate lakes, and picturesque towns such as Menaggio, Tremezzo and Bellagio have been English enclaves for 200 years. The region is well placed for Britain and the rest of Europe: Milan, with its two international airports, is 90 minutes' drive from Como on the autostrada. The French Riviera can be reached in two hours. Florence and Zurich in three and Venice in less.

Apartments at Le Terrazze, a well designed cluster of flats built into the hillside above Menaggio, start at £77,000 for two bedrooms. Set in

nine acres of subtropical gardens, overlooking the lake, facilities include a large swimming-pool and tennis courts.

The cheapest lakeside house in Tremezzo is likely to cost at least £200,000 for two bedrooms. Further up the lake in Aquasera, two-bedroom furnished apartments in an 18th-century villa, set back from the lake, cost from £73,000.

Prices are lower on Como's wild and windy north-western shore, around the old fishing village of Domaso which has good windsurfing, sailing and waterskiing. A ruined stone

house in a rural setting, with views of lake and mountains, can still be found for about £22,000. A small restored cottage, set back from the lake, would cost from £35,000, while about £60,000 would buy a large stone house in good condition, set amid vines and olive groves.

The stone house pictured, overlooking Lake Como, is for sale at £112,000 (including agents' fees).



Tall storeys: house and views. £112,000

Situated not far from the lakeside town of Santa Maria Rezonico, between Menaggio and Gravedona, the four-storey, three-bedroom property is currently undergoing modernisation work and is to be sold fully restored. The UK agent is Casa Travella, 65, Birchwood Road, Wilmington, Kent (0322 660988).

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Rain stops play in the great game of harvest

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

THIS week we have stumped, cursed, muttered, slammed doors, barked at children and kicked cats in a series of scenes which I bet has been repeated on every farm that still has corn to gather in. It is a measure of the depressing nature of this year's harvest that on a day when the seasons normally dictate that I should be tossing dry sheaves on to a wagon, instead I was picking up hefty branches of damp oak fallen in gale-force winds, and clearing gutters so that a couple of inches of rainwater could find their way to the ditch. It is so long since we had regular downpours that I suspect the rain has forgotten how to flow once it hits the ground. It sits, bewildered, in puddles where none has appeared before.

Had all this happened at the end of September we would have been delighted, and happily pointed our ploughs at the softened, yielding ground: but 2in of rain in 24 hours

with sheaves of corn still standing in the fields is a strain on any farmer's sense of humour.

But am I any worse off than my mechanised neighbours? I think not, for in my game the rules are easier. With knowledge culled from my collection of aged farming tomes, I took the binder to the corn when the wheat was "still in a cheesy condition and the yellowness of the straw had extended to its entire length". The book reassures me that "final maturation, resulting in the flinty hard condition of the grain, will occur in the stalk".

Modern farmers take a more scientific and less liberal approach. They measure the moisture with a sophisticated apparatus and until



the needle drops to the magic 15 per cent, they will not take the harvest. In the recent wet and variable weather, it has been a common sight to see farmers muttering to each other like schoolboys behind a bike shed, exchanging such intimacies as "Mine's down to 16! How's yours?" "Eighteen this morning," comes the glum reply, and they all shake their heads with pity. Far easier just to say "cheesy" (anything between Parnassus and Brie) and cut the stuff down regardless.

In my short farming career, this is the first tricky harvest I have had to face. For the past couple of years the hot sun has blazed upon the fields for weeks on end, and harvest required no more than straightfor-



ward effort. This year it needs cunning. I am beginning to see why farmers used to speak of "winning" the harvest battle. My precious farming book of 1874 gives great prominence to the

notion of a contest played out between farmer, corn and weather: "Winning is effectual when the weather is dry... wind is also winning... to win the straw bands [on the sheaves] may have to

be loosened... corn wins in no way so quickly as when 'gaitined'."

My eyes, searching hungrily for comfort, fell upon the word "gaitined". Alas, even the aged book describes it as an ancient method. It required each and every sheaf of corn to be separated from the others and be spread out at its base, like a bunch of flowers, to dry alone. It is comforting to think that there was an age when farmers could employ sufficient numbers of labourers to carry out such intensive tasks. It is all the lad and I can do to trudge up the field now and again and re-erect the sheaves that have fallen in the wind. So we wait for the weather, and in the great game of harvest we seem to have arrived at a stalemate.

So I prepared the stack-bottom. This is the strawed area where the cornstack will eventually stand, and is designed to keep the sheaves in the bottom of the stack from

coming to rest on the damp ground beneath. But even this apparently simple operation is fraught with indecision. How big should I build it? If it is too small, the stack will tower higher than is safe, and be vulnerable to high winds; set it out too large and I will end up with a squat little effort more like a slice of limp Yorkshire pudding than the correct "loaf of bread" shape.

And so, even when the poor farmer thinks the contest is nearly over, defeat is ever close at hand. The rules of a traditional harvest demand that every operation, even unto the final one, be carried out to perfection. As I write there are still many rounds to go before we can declare a result. The sky darkens, the wind blows, the rain pours, the overworked moisture-meters have flattened their batteries. The sooner someone blows the final whistle, the happier we all shall be.

Events

- Abbots Bromley barn dance: A traditional event in which local houses are visited by dancers and musicians. Abbots Bromley, nr Uttoxeter, Staffordshire. Throughout the village (0283 840251). Mon, 8am-4.30pm, free.
- Chatsworth country fair: More than 200 trade stands, rural crafts, a traditional fairground, and competitions. Plus the Musical Ride of the Household Cavalry. Chatsworth House and park, Bakewell, Derbyshire (0246 582204). Today and tomorrow, 9.15am-6.30pm. Today £5, tomorrow £6, under-14s free.
- Holme Valley torchlit procession: A spectacular procession of heavy homes, bands and carnival floats. Old Drill Hall, Thongbridge, Halmfrith, W. Yorks (0484 640640). Today, 8-10pm. Free.
- Kielder forest safari: Guided exploration by foot and Land-Rover. Tower Knowe, Kielder Forest, Northumberland (0434 240368). Wed, 10am-4pm, book in advance, £20, child £10.
- Druidage Bay Nature Reserve open day: Free entry to all wildlife reserves on the bay; wardens will be in attendance. Hawley Nature Reserve and other venues, Druidage Bay, nr Widdrington, Northumberland (0665 712143). Tomorrow, 10am-5pm. Free.
- Horton-in-Ribblesdale show: Traditional events from stonemasonry competitions and children's sports to flowers and pets. C of E School, Horton-in-Ribblesdale, Saddle, N. Yorks (0729 860271). Today, 11am-5pm. 50p, child 30p.
- Sheriff's ride: A cavalcade round Lichfield's boundaries, plus traditional races. Lichfield, Staffordshire (0543 257503). Today, 10.30am-6.30pm. Free.
- Food from the wilds: Food for free from the Aislaby Barns area: fungi, fruits and herbs. Aislaby village, Yarm, Cleveland (0642 248155). Tomorrow, 2pm. Free.

Gardens to visit

- BRITAIN
- Oxfordshire: Faringdon House has a large garden with terraces, views, fine trees, rare fruit walks, orangey, lake and some amusing features. Faringdon, off the A420 between Oxford and Swindon. Tomorrow, 2-5pm. £1, child free.
- Highland: The Castle of Moy, which belongs to the Queen Mother, has a fine garden attached to the 16th-century castle. It features unusual and personal plants protected by hedges and walls. Superb panoramic views. 1½ miles from Moy, Cuthbert. Today, 2-5pm. £1.50p.
- Somerset: Wootton Bassett has a country-house style garden, with terraces, herbaceous borders, roses, trees, shrubs, rock garden, woodland and views of the Mendips. Butleigh Wootton, 3m S of Glastonbury. Tomorrow, 2-5.30pm. £1.50, under five free.
- IRELAND
- Dublin: The National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, are celebrated for splendid trees and shrubs and fine herbaceous borders, also glasshouses, lawns. Glasnevin, one mile north of central Dublin. Open daily, 9am-6pm (winter, 9am-4.30pm). Free.
- County Down: Castledown National Arboretum has a fine collection of plants. Set in the foothills of the mountains of Mourne, there are borders and flowering shrubs in a walled arboretum, heather garden and a loughside arboretum. Castledown, 30m S of Belfast, by A24 and minor roads. Open daily, dawn-dusk. Entry fee for car park £2.

Home from home: Anna Vinton, founder of The Reject Shop, at her Regency house near Kettering, Northamptonshire

A private and public homemaker

Anna Vinton, a brisk and no-nonsense woman, founded The Reject Shop when she was still in her twenties. "People were terribly shocked when I turned up for meetings," she says. "It's rather distressing that I no longer get the same reaction." Now aged 44, she is co-chairman, with her first husband Anthony Hawser, of the chain. There are 26 Reject Shops around the country with several more due to open this year, selling a diverse range of gifts, glassware, china and furniture.

Mrs Vinton has a house in London through necessity. But her second house, near Kettering in Northamptonshire, is a true home from home. Here her six-year-old daughter and four-year-old son by her second husband, banker Fred Vinton, attend the local prep school and enjoy a typically English pony-club childhood, with the assistance of a nanny and other staff.

Mrs Vinton is a keen horsewoman herself and bought the house, in 1979, because of its proximity to England's best riding and hunting country. Although she will "forever be a newcomer" in the area, not least because she must spend so much time in London, she is keenly interested in village issues. The lack of affordable housing in what has become a commuter belt, for example, is one of the most common contemporary rural problems.

Another — as common but not yet as publicised — is a widespread rural disillusionment with planners. Recently

Mrs Vinton added her muscle to a local struggle over the use of hangars on a disused airfield nearby. However, temporary planning permission for industrial use has just been granted, "despite the opposition of the village parish councils which are affected and which include individuals of all political complexions", she says. "The planning system in this country is not, in fact, very democratic."

Her red-brick house was built in 1836, but is Regency rather than Victorian in architecture. All the rooms are high-ceilinged, designed to dwarf their inhabitants, particularly the hall which has pillars and a sweeping staircase. This was clearly a trophy house.

Many of the internal details are later additions, but are unusually serendipitous. The fireplaces are refugees from another Victorian house which was bulldozed. The mellow pine panelling in a spare bedroom was made for a smaller room in some other house. Cornicing in the drawing-room dates from the 1920s and conceals lighting.

The house was in good structural condition when the Vintons bought it. They concentrated on restoring outbuildings such as the Victorian greenhouse, an expensive labour of love. A local carpenter spent the entire summer making the slatted benches, for example. The fine old stable block requires renovation next. "Old houses like this must be lived in and restored on an ongoing basis," Mrs Vinton says.



Enjoying her work at home and in business: "Old houses like this must be lived in and restored on an ongoing basis," Anna Vinton says

There is very little that is overtly feminine about the house, although Mr Vinton leaves decorating decisions to his wife and concentrates on the 400-acre farm and the breeding of horses. Furniture is solid. Art reflects the household hobby: a bronze of two sinuous thoroughbreds stands in the hall and the study is lined with paintings of hunts straggling across frosty fields. All the colours are strong (in

line with Mrs Vinton's confidence): deep blue for the study walls, red for the dining-room. Chairs and sofas in the drawing-room are either yellow or plum (which sounds ghastly, but in a room as big as this a bungalow works rather well). Did she use decorator? "Only friends such as Jane Churchill and Annie Charlton, who would go along with what I wanted and only say something if my ideas didn't work."

When Mrs Vinton met the gardener who came with the house, he asked her if she liked gardening. She replied, stoutly but mendaciously, that she did, and promptly set about studying the subject, cleverly planning a huge border according to colour relationships. She now contemplates it from her bathroom, scribbling any felicitous changes which occur to her for the autumn in a notebook. "Gardening has

taught me patience," she says, only half-convincing the listener.

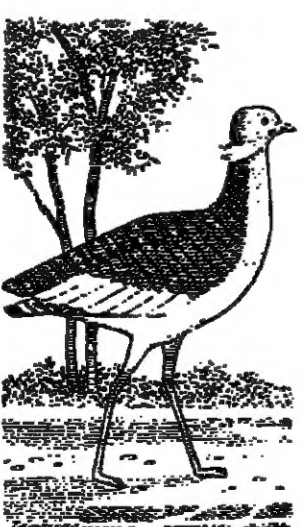
Mrs Vinton was a pioneer of job-sharing, a policy she admits has atrophied in recession. Now she says the company trend is towards employing older women who are proving efficient and reliable. "This is an interesting move because the core customer is very young. They come to us in their early teens, for

'fun' items, then to equip their first flat or bedsit and their first house." Afterwards they return only for secondary items, as Mrs Vinton herself uses the stores, for the children's china, glasses for the outdoors and folding chairs, for example. It is a pattern she does not hanker to change: "You cannot be all things to all people," Mrs Vinton says firmly.

LOUETTE HARDING

Fair play for bustards

Feather report



Fatal steppe: great bustard

I think I am safe this year. True, I can resist anything except temptation, but this year I honestly think I can get away with a trip to Rutland. I have always dodged it in the past, but today I will be there, to run the gamut of the British Birdwatching Fair.

The fair continues today and tomorrow at Egleton Nature Reserve, Rutland Water, near Oakham, in what we are supposed to call Leicestershire. It is a gathering of everything and everyone to do with birds: information, gossip, lectures, stunts, demonstrations. All birding life is there even good birding on Rutland Water.

There are also several thousand ways to spend money, and therein lies the problem: binoculars, books, holidays, works of art, computer software, birdsong tapes and CDs (irresistible, surely), rare bird phone pagers (which tell the user when a rare bird arrives in the vicinity), photographs, cameras, clothes, notebooks, wildbird food, and so on. I am due to promote my book, *Flying in the Face of Nature*, at the Bird and Wildlife Bookshop's stall, so there's an added incentive for punters to stay away.

But I shall wander the fair immune from all temptations, like Ulysses on Circe's island. The reason is that I have spent a ludicrous amount of money on an air ticket to Zambia for a prolonged bout of birding — so the birding holidays offered cannot distract me, and I already own the three cassettes of the *Birdsong of Zambia*, compiled by my friend Bob Sterns.

I shall saunter about with my hands in my (empty) pockets, prepared to watch the top people in birding as they compete this afternoon for the

title of birding mastermind: I shall cheer for my friend Chris Harbard of the RSPB (subject, ornithological literature).

What is the fair all for? Quite a lot of things. The gathering of the clans is important; a reaffirmation of a shared belief in conservation and living things. It is fun. And it raises lolly for conservation.

Each year the fair highlights a conservation target. Two years ago it raised money for the Coto Doñana in Spain, a marvellous place full of flamingos, and threatened by the proposed development of a golfing resort. The Coto Doñana is now safe. Last year, the fair raised £20,000 to equip the 85 wardens in the Danube delta in Romania. The delta has subsequently been declared a Biosphere Reserve, a World Heritage Site and a Ramsar site, all very good things to be, and the

Romanian government has demonstrated a commitment to the area and an interest in developing green tourism.

This year's fair is raising money to buy a showpiece reserve on the Spanish steppe: vast areas of grazing and arable land in mid-Spain, the home of the great bustards — birds the size of turkeys that gather in flocks of 100 and more. They were once British birds, living mainly on Salisbury Plain, but they went extinct here in the last century.

The Spanish steppes are the heartland of today's bustard population, but the Spanish government has been working hard to intensify agriculture there to produce wheat, of which the European Community already has a surplus. Such huge projects of irrigation, pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers spell ruin for the bustards.

The conservation campaign has already done some good: two areas of steppe have been declared Environmentally Sensitive Areas, meaning farmers can farm only in an environmentally friendly way.

This is grand news on three successive projects. The fair has the happy knack of seizing an important issue and thrusting it into the forefront of people's hearts and minds. The target for the fair instantly moves on to the cutting edge of conservation. I look forward to next year's cause célèbre.

SIMON BARNES

What's about: Birders — watch for wayward ospreys moving south. Twitters: immature Ruppell's warbler at Holme, Norfolk (fourth British record); several white-winged black tern, various locations. Further details from Birdline on 0598 792222.

Heap of the week: Donadea Castle, Republic of Ireland

Castle handled with care

IRELAND is often pictured as a land of gently crumbling country houses, so Donadea Castle comes as a surprise. Ruin it is, but one where decay has been decisively arrested.

Donadea is some 20 miles due west of Dublin in gently undulating farming country, midway between Maynooth to the north and Naas to the south. Decline set in when the last of the family, Miss C.M. Aylmer, bequeathed the castle to the Church of Ireland in 1935. Even before her death little work had been done on the building in years.

Harry McDowell, a local historian, recalls that the comforts of modern plumbing never reached Donadea. "Every day, winter and summer, Miss Aylmer would be escorted to an outside privy by a man with an umbrella who would wait half an hour and escort her back," he says.

After the second world war the castle continued to fall into ruin, although the nearby Protestant church, with a particularly fine family monument, remained well looked after. Then about 15 years ago the estate was acquired by the Irish Forestry Department.

When the department announced plans to create a public forest park, Kildare County Council's enterprising planning officer, the architect Niall Meagher, put



Decline arrested: the vast Donadea Castle estate is now a well-kept forest park

pressure on to make the ruin safe. "Mr Meagher was very keen on preserving ruins, and took great pains to see they were stabilised and blocked off so children could not get in," says Mr McDowell.

Today the vast estate is still enclosed by miles of unusually high park wall, punctuated by long disused castellated gateways. But you can freely bowl up the new drive into the forest park. The estate has been planted largely with deciduous trees, and as a result views have been lost, so you come on the house almost by surprise.

Mr Meagher explains: "It

is essentially a medieval towerhouse wrapped round with 19th-century additions. Unfortunately all the interior fittings such as chimney pieces were stripped out 20 or 30 years ago, when people could still walk through the house. There is another tower at the corner which serves as the office for the farm manager."

The house stands at the corner of a huge walled enclosure measuring 200 yards by nearly 100, enclosing the former farmyard and kitchen gardens.

The family connections remain. Last year the present Aylmer baronet came from

Canada to a commemorative service at the church and is planning to write a history of the family. A picture of Donadea in its prime is to be found in the Earl of Mayo's history of the Kildare hunt. Anyone interested in pursuing ruined Irish houses should obtain a copy of *Vanishing Houses of Ireland* from the Irish Architectural Archive at 73 Merion Square, Dublin.

One day a new owner or a new use may arrive, but meanwhile Donadea is a rare example of a heap which looks reasonably secure.

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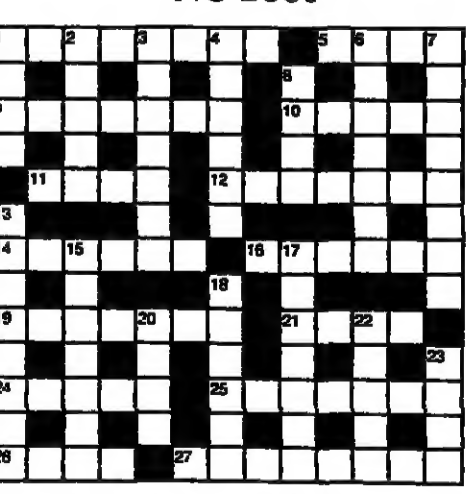
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WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Pahlz - van Wely, Luxembourg 1991. White has infiltrated in dramatic fashion down the h-file, and now delivered mate. Can you see how?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9DX. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a Bedford chess book. The winners and the winners will be printed in The Times on the following Saturday.

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Notice of appointment of liquidator.

Voluntary winding up of creditors.

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FLATSHARE

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Notice of appointment of liquidator.

Voluntary winding up of creditors.

The Insolvency Act 1986.

Company Name: The Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Co. Ltd.

Address: The Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Co. Ltd., 100, Cannon St, London EC4A 3DF.

Date of appointment: 25 August 1992.

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS WANTED

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RENTALS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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GHOST WRITER

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Non Medical Breakthrough for Cystic Fibrosis

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The Stroke Association

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Continued from page 4

OPERA & BALLET

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THE WOMAN IN BLACK

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ENTERTAINMENTS

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CHANNEL FOUR

- 6.00 **Trans World Sport** (t) (51186) 7.00 **Take 5**. Programmes for younger viewers (20631)
- 7.00 **The 1900s**. The life of the wife. Animated series (t) (97727)
- 7.30 **Shirley and George**. Tales of a fish detective (7553212) 8.05 **Pro Stars**. Cartoon (7092341) 8.30 **Kelly**. Adventures of a police dog (23780) 9.00 **Spacecats**. Feline cartoon (6653693)
- 9.25 **Laurel and Hardy**. Cartoon fun with the comic duo (3945709)
- 9.30 **Dennis**. Animated antics of the mischievous boy and his friends (t) (970591)
- 9.45 **Pippin**. Adventures of the friendly dolphin (549902)
- 10.15 **Owl TV**. Michaela Strachan introduces the wildlife magazine programme (t). (Teletext) (531983)
- 10.45 **Voyage To the Bottom of the Sea**. Tales of an extraordinary submarine and her captain (307148)
- 11.45 **Little House on the Prairie**. The trials and tribulations of a close-knit family starring Michael Landon (3156457)
- 12.40 **Elvis**. The King of Rock and Roll. After Hitchcock's comedy/thriller starring Jane Wyman as a budding actress who turns detective to prove Marlene Dietrich guilty of murder (50541525)
- 2.45 **Football Italia**. Live coverage of the match between Sampdoria and Lazio. Commentary by Paul Elliott and Peter Brackley (46767490)
- 4.55 **Magoo**. Two cartoons featuring the mischievous myopic (4196322)
- 5.10 **News and weather** (2429815)
- 5.15 **Answering Back**. Susannah Simons returns to interview the famous and the powerful (1668615)
- 6.00 **A Beginner's Guide to American Football**. Everything you ever wanted to know about the sport (273)
- 6.30 **The Cosby Show**. American family comedy show. (Teletext) (525)



The way they were: the royal honeymoon in 1981 (9.25pm)

9.25 Diana — The End of the Fairytale? An ITN documentary, presented by John Suchet, looks at the allegedly troubled marriage of the Princess of Wales and discusses the implications for the royal family and the monarchy. The programme includes interviews with royal biographers Mary Longford, Anthony Holden, Penny Juno and Andrew Morton (Ceefoot (393542)).

10.25 Midsommer Night's Dream: The Knightsbridge Safe Deposit Box. The first in a new series in which the cigar-chomping film director introduces reconstructions of recent crimes and how they were solved. Tonight's case concerned Valerio Vici, an Italian playboy and gangster, and Britain's biggest armed robbery (Ceefoot (399492)).

10.55 News and weather (459780).

11.15 Film: Conquest of the Planet of the Apes (1972). Roddy McDowall stars in the fourth in the series of films. As disease has wiped out all the world's cats and dogs, apes are kept as pets but are treated as slaves, until they revolt. Directed by J. Lee Thompson (Ceefoot (397780)).

12.50 Song of the Music. The Blues Band in concert at the Glastonbury Festival (384304).

1.55 The ITV Chat Show (r) (s) (1958939).

2.55 Film: Corridors of Blood (1958, b/w) starring Boris Karloff and Christopher Lee. A 19th-century sturgeon unwittingly becomes involved with a body snatcher. Directed by Robert Day (147610).

4.30 Midsommer Night's Dream. Robert Powell narrates a new series which looks back at the past 251 years using footage from the world's news services (r) (75771).

5.30 ITN Morning News (82610). Ends at 6.00

dar News (28
Live (372588

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LONDON escape: 12.25 This Is America
Charlie Brown (857/448) 12.50-1.00 Calen-

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast
6.00am Breakfast 6.09
Weather 6.16 Prelude 6.30
News; Morning Has Broken
7.00 News 7.10 Sunday
Papers 7.15 On Your Farm
7.20 Sunday 8.00 News 8.10
Sunday Papers 8.50 Jenni
Murray speaks for the Week's
Greatest Cause 9.00 News
9.05 Sunday
9.10 Sunday
15.15 Letter from America by
Alistair Cooke (O) 15.30
Morning Service
16.15 The Archers (O) 16.30
16.45 The Archers (O) 16.50

6.15 Feedback with Chris Dunkley
7.00 **CHOICE**: Modesty never
having been one of Sir Roy
Strong's more endearing
quirks, he characteristically
begins his new series about
the state's relationship with
the arts in Britain and the men
and women who have either
boasted or tightened the
links, by declaring "I've known
the lot!". A slight case of
dramatic licence perhaps.
7.30 **Arch** Sir Roy Strong, bearded

On the Age of Columbus 3.00 Newdesk 3.30 Composer of the Month: Bostonian Martin
D News 4.09 Words of Faith 4.15 Sports Poundup

... ..

— *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997, 278:1033-1038

BBC1

- 6.35 Open University: Light on Lasers (6272698) 7.00 Blancmanges and Snowflakes (3855766)
 7.25 News and weather (7721371)
 7.30 Hailo Spencer: Pupper fun (1) (5692292) 7.50 Babar: Adventures of the royal elephant (1) (5603308) 8.15 The New Lassie: Canine adventures (6411476) 8.35 The Jetsons: Space-age cartoon fun (1) (8264292) 9.00 Parallel 9 with Roddy Maude-Roxby, Helen Atkins, Jenny Bolt, Dominic McHale and Kevin Williams. Featuring a preview of the ice hockey action when the Montreal Canadiens take on the Chicago Blackhawks at Wembley next week (5) (5073018) 10.12 Weather (6192389)
 10.15 Grandstand: The line-up includes (subject to alteration): 10.20, 1.25, 2.05, 2.35, 3.35 and 4.00 Cricket: live coverage of the NatWest Bank Trophy final from Lord's between Leicestershire and Northamptonshire; 12.45, 1.05 Football: Bob Wilson and Gary Lineker with the latest news from the Premier League; 1.00 News; 1.55, 2.25 and 3.25 Racing from Haydock; 3.50 Football half-times; 4.40 Final Score (66244056)
 5.05 News and weather (3079259) 5.15 Regional News and weather (2435476) 5.30 Wales: Wales on Saturday 5.55 Stay Tuned
 5.20 Bruce Forsyth's Generation Game: With a new series of the game show starting in two weeks, Bruce Forsyth and Rosemarie Ford look back at some of their favourite moments from last year's series. (Ceefax) (5) (1868872)



Where fools rush in: Bobby Davro hosts the pranks (6.20pm)

- 6.20 Bobby Davro — Public Enemy No 1
 ● CHOICE: This curiously titled show is built on the familiar strategy, exploited by a host of hosts, from Jeremy Beadle to Noel Edmonds and Esther Rantzen, of getting people on television to make fools of themselves. The victims include both a celebrity panel and members of the public. If the celebrities (tonight comprising Keith Chegwin, Bob Holness, Linda Lusardi and Paul Shane) get questions wrong they have to do a forfeit, chosen to cause maximum embarrassment. As for the public, they are on the sharp end of pranks such as answering the phone in a call box and being told to sweep it out. The show is not as cruel as some of Beadle's efforts, nor as nauseating as Noel's House Party. But nor, on the early evidence, is it wildly funny. (Ceefax) (5) (119501)
 7.00 Film: E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial (1982)
 ● CHOICE: Steven Spielberg's tale of a ten-year-old Los Angeles boy (Henry Thomas) and his friendship with an engaging little reptilian from outer space makes a simple, affecting but cleverly manipulated film which has earned more than any other in the history of the cinema. The intimacy of the subject also helps it to move easily from the wide-screen frame to the living room. The enormous success of E.T. has been attributed to the public's relief that a cinema that seemed to have succumbed to sex and gore could still offer old-fashioned, wholesome family entertainment. Echoing Peter Pan at more points than mere coincidence would explain, the film is pitched at the child in all of us. The script is unpatronising and only moderately sentimental, and all the best fairy stories, compellingly told. (Ceefax) (5) (50816476)
 8.50 Carrott's Commercial Breakdown 2: Jasper Carrott reviews some of the world's weirdest and most outrageous television advertisements (1) (971834)
 9.40 News with Martin Lewis: Sport and weather (313871)
 10.00 Match of the Day: Desmond Lynam introduces highlights of two of this afternoon's Premier League fixtures (5) (5037)
 11.00 Film: Buller's (1977) starring George Segal and Richard Widmark. Somebody is sabotaging fairground rides, a safety inspector is determined to stop him before more innocent victims plunge to their deaths. Directed by James Goldstone. (Ceefax) (5) (57785) 11.55 Wales: Bruce Forsyth's Generation Game compilation 12.00-1.55 Film: Rollercoaster
 12.55am Weather (3160772)

BBC2

- 6.40 Open University: The University Yesterday (6255931) 7.05 Maths: And So On... (5952679) 7.30 Changing the Mould (597308) 7.55 Probing the Structure of Liquids (569592) 8.20 The Sport of Pollution (623211) 8.45 Maths: Goodness of Fit (6268018) 9.10 A Question of Evidence (6682105) 9.35 Head Start: Children of the Dream (9265389) 10.00 Santa Maria del Miracolo, Venice (7158018) 10.25 The Future on Display (9763747) 10.50 Engineering Mechanics: Designing a Lift (8459495) 11.15 A Global Culture (1980143) 11.40 School of the Future? (2791563) 12.05pm Operating Systems (8590476) 12.30 Living With Technology (595476) 12.55 Culture and Belief in Europe: 1450-1600 (7604768) 1.20 Mozambique Under Attack (78213259) 1.45 Mental Illness (45126105) 2.10 Hazardous Waste Disposal (5017252) 2.14 The New Friendly School (526768) 3.00 Film: Kate's Secret (1986) Moving drama starring Meredith Baxter Birney as a victim of the eating disorder, bulimia. Directed by Arthur Allan Seidman (30209)
 4.30 Cricket: Live coverage of the closing stages of the NatWest Bank Trophy final between Leicestershire and Northamptonshire at Lord's (5) (911211)
 7.30 Personal Details: National Identity. In the last of six programmes, Stuart Hall looks at how the criteria for being British can become linked to skin colour, culture and race. The Olympic athletes Dalton Grant and Jennifer Stoute discuss what it means to be black and British, while disc jockey Steve Jack talks about being Scottish (579)
 8.00 News with Andrew Harvey: Sport and weather (849871)
 8.15 Dancehallers: Le Dantoir, Judith Macrelli introduces the British premiere of the acclaimed Canadian film adaptation of Gilles Mahe's stage production Le Dantoir (5) (206872)



Dilemmas of the left: Bruce Hubbard, Glyn Owen (9.10pm)

- 9.10 Encounters
 ● CHOICE: Two men of the left, Paul Robeson (played by the late Bruce Hubbard) and Anselmi Bevan (Glyn Owen), meet at the Welsh Eisteddfod in 1958. Bevan has just done his U-turn on nuclear disarmament and decided that a ban-the-bomb platform would be electoral suicide. Robeson is still an apologist for the Soviet Union, despite the excesses of the Stalin era, and declares that the real Cold War is being fought between black and white in the United States. Edwin Pearce's drama builds on this contrast, projecting Robeson as a noble but naive idealist and Bevan as the newly pragmatic politician prepared to sacrifice vision for power. But the exercise is ultimately unbalanced for while Robeson is welcomed into the Welsh mining community, there is no equivalent rapport between Bevan and the American blacks. (Ceefax) (645143)
 10.00 Video Diaries: My Demons — The Legacy
 ● CHOICE: Willa Woolston was the author of a remarkable film in this series shown two years ago in which she returned in harrowing detail to an American childhood made by her brutal stepfather. In this sequel she digs deeper into her painful family history, in particular exploring the effect of her abuse on the lives of her own children. She also plucks up courage to make contact with the stepmother she has not seen for several decades. Woolston has had a terrible life and even now, well into middle age, she wakes up every morning filled with fear. She clearly hopes that exposing herself and her family to the camera in this frank and uninhibited way will help to exorcise her demons. It does not make comfortable viewing (571)
 11.15 Cricket: Highlights of today's play at Lord's between Leicestershire and Northamptonshire in the NatWest Bank Trophy final (5) (102834)
 12.05am Film: Night Mother (1986) starring Anne Bancroft and Sissy Spacek. A mother has to draw on all her resources to prevent a tragedy when her daughter announces that she is going to commit suicide. Directed by Tom Moore (571490). Ends at 1.40

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (5094747)
 9.25 What's Up Doc? Andy Crane, Yvette Fielding and Pat Sharp present the first episode of a new children's entertainment magazine featuring cartoons, an inflatable Snow wresler and pop group Bananarama (27757495)



Laughter the best medicine: Crane, Fielding, Sharp (9.25am)

- 11.30 Movies, Movies, Movies. The first programme in a new magazine series looking at the latest family films on video and at the cinema (9360)
 12.00 The ITV Chart Show. Featuring Duran Duran with "A View to a Kill" (78501)
 1.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather (66326360) 1.05 LWT News (6635259)
 1.10 Starting from Scratch. American comedy about the life and loves of a small-town vet (75018785)
 1.35 McCloud: The Park Avenue Rustlers. The cowboy marshal teams up with a policeman in an effort to infiltrate an international ring of car-thieves (1) (9182785)
 3.00 Matlock. Legal drama series starring Andy Griffith (7132834)
 3.55 WCCW Wrestling. More grunt, grapple and groan from the United States (7390259)
 4.40 News and weather (6606691) 5.00 LWT News (2449785)
 5.15 Barrymore. Michael Barrymore presents a compilation of his favourite moments from his last series in which the stars are ordinary members of the public (1) (555569)
 6.20 Film: The Karate Kid (1984) starring Ralph Macchio and Noriyuki Morita. When a teenager moves to a new area he becomes the victim of a gang of bullies. He is befriended by an elderly Japanese man who teaches him the secrets of karate. Directed by John G. Avildsen (9253124)
 8.40 10 Years Of It'll Be Alright on the Night. Denis Norden presents a compilation of more than one hundred comic out-takes (1) (909582)
 9.40 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather (513899)
 10.00 Film: Predator (1987). Science-fiction thriller starring Arnold Schwarzenegger as the leader of an elite rescue squad summoned to South America to rescue a kidnapped cabinet minister. Directed by John Wood (924747)
 12.00 The Big E. Magazine programme for and about young Europeans (5) (42612)
 1.05am New Music. Featuring pop videos and celebrity interviews (3645051)
 2.15 Music from the Bridge. Tony Gregory presents a profile of the band Prefab Sprout (5) (55693)
 2.50 Rhythms 'n' Raags. Asian music show, featuring Suraj, Baluji Shrivastava, Anmol and Nivita (60265)
 3.20 Indy Car Racing 1991. Highlights of the Pioneer Electronics 200 (795728)
 4.20 Out of Limits. Endurance tests for sportsmen and women (8865083)
 4.30 The Hit Man and Her. Pete Waterman and Michaela Strachan examine the disco club scene (5) (28612)
 5.30 ITN Morning News (82167). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Joyce and the Wheelers Warriors (1) (2891853) 6.25 Eureka's Castle (1) (5934495) 6.55 Once Upon A Time... Life. How the body slows down with aging (1) (6269124) 7.25 Blood Sweat and Glory. The history of sport (5) (3841563) 7.55 Trans World Sport. International sporting news (5019874) 9.00 News (7720940) 9.15 Racing: The Morning Line (8477582)
 10.00 The Hard Face of the Ogre. Paul Munn tackles the north face of the Ogre in the Karakorum Himalayas (1) (38853)
 10.30 Australian Rules Football. The finals series down under (73211)
 11.30 Quizbowl. Will Buckley introduces the sports quiz where rival journalists test their knowledge. Today, News of the World versus Today (1) (5330)
 12.00 Get Smart. Spy spoof series starring Don Adams (38495)
 12.30 Bosnia. Two-part documentary following the lives of the inhabitants of a small Bosnian Muslim community facing direct assault from the troops and irregulars of the Serbian "ethnic cleansing" operation (64308)
 1.00 Film: In the Good Old Summertime (1949) starring Judy Garland and Van Johnson as bickering assistants in a music store who have one thing in common, they are both having a romance by post. Directed by Robert Z. Leonard (8076638) 2.55 Zeno Is Sleepy. Animation from Hungary (9962327)
 3.00 Channel 4 Racing from Kempton Park and the Curragh. Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the 3.10, 3.40, 4.10 and 4.40 races from Kempton Park and the 3.50, the Mayo Stud Stakes, from the Curragh (8976037)
 5.05 Brookside. Omnibus edition. (1) (Teletext) (5) (5013563)
 5.30 The Big E. The knockout tournament to find Britain's best wheelchair basketball team. (Teletext) (5) (563)
 7.00 The State With Sheila McDonald. In the run-up to next weekend's general elections in Thailand, an investigation into the 500 missing people who took part in anti-government demonstrations last May; plus the mood in France in the wake of the first television debate about the referendum on the Maastricht agreement (5476)



Hunting to survive: an Igwi bushman in the Kalahari (8.00pm)

- 8.00 Kingdom of the Plains. The final documentary film centres on the Igwi bushmen of the Kalahari Desert in Botswana. (Teletext) (8124)
 9.00 Court TV: America on Trial. Cynthia McFadden presents extracts from the case of North Carolina's Bonney. In 1988 Thomas Bonney was sentenced to death for the murder of his 21-year-old daughter. However, the sentence has not been carried out due to a Supreme Court ruling. In this re-run he is being sentenced afresh (5) (8360)
 10.00 Lat The Blood Run Free. Medical mayhem at St Christopher's Hospital. Warren scales the wall of the hospital to save Effie, and Dick Lears Pam onto the hospital roof. (Teletext) (5) (39124)
 10.30 Film: Journey of Hope (1990). Based on the true story of a Turkish couple who save their village in search of a better life in Switzerland. But their journey of hope turns into a desperate fight for survival. Directed by Xavier Koller. In English with German subtitles (90637)
 12.30am The Twilight Zone: On Thursday We Leave for Home. The leader of an expedition to a remote asteroid is unwilling to return to earth (5728254)
 1.25 Film: Supernatural (1933, bw) starring Carole Lombard as an heiress who is possessed by the spirit of an accused murderer. With Randolph Scott and Vivienne Osborne. Directed by Victor Halperin (5486167). Ends at 2.35

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Water cut as
 Serbs
 days to
 over head

Dead
 gives birth

Patients

Bush setback

Fewer jobs

Leads beaten

Life at

Life at

Life at

Life at

Life at

SATTELLITE

SKY ONE

- Via the Astra and Maripol satellites
 6.00am Carer Bay (543271) 6.30 Bephat Bay (28108) 7.00m Run Factory (8413251)
 12.00 Beyond 2000 (50747) 1.00 Rapids (92425) 2.00 Big House (43414) 3.00 Movie (26698) 4.00 Iron Horse (87655)
 5.00 WWF Superstars of Wrestling (5501)
 6.00 T.J. Hooker (29259) 7.00 Bookie (48388) 8.00 Unsubbed Mysteries (57059)
 9.00 Cops (47619) 9.30 Cops II (91476)
 10.00 Film: In the Frame (25959) 12.00 Popcorn from Skyline
 SKY NEWS
 ● Via the Astra and Maripol satellites
 6.00am News (5561785) 9.30 Nightline (19788) 10.00 Sky News Dayline (40327)
 10.30 Financial Times Media Europe (69389)

11.00 Dayline (11495)

- 11.30 The Reporters (94679) 12.30pm Fashion TV (12211) 1.30 Holiday Destinations (53105) 3.30 News Where The Days (78772) 4.30 Financial Times Media Europe (69389) 5.30 The Reporters (20921) 7.30 Fashion TV (9550) 8.00 News Hour (96579) 8.30 Travel Destinations (83108) 10.30 The Reporters (20901) 11.30 Fashion TV (9874) 12.30am Financial Times Media Europe (69389) 1.30 Travel Destinations (46544) 2.30 News Where The Days (78772) 3.30 Financial Times Media Europe (69389)

SKY MOVIES+

- Via the Astra and Maripol satellites
 6.00am Movies (57455) Mel Brooks satire about film-making (54766)
 10.00 Weekend of R (1) (1986) Wildlife documentary (15565)
 12.00 The Kid Who Wouldn't Quit (1987) Story of a Downs Syndrome child who attends college (18143)

1.00 Stood Up: Romantic teen drama with Lucy Deakins (94572)

- 2.00 Heroes (1577) Henry Windsor as a Victorian emperor (81259)
 4.00 A Little Bit of Heaven (1991) A young orphan tries to set up his own orphanage (5100)
 6.00 Malignant (1991) Richard Harris as the French detective (73544143)
 7.40 Entertainment Tonight (25138)
 8.00 Mr. Doolittle (1992) Emotional drama with Jessica Lange as a bereaved mother (46940)
 10.00 Cover-Up (1991) Adventure with Dolph Lundgren as a TV reporter (112529)
 11.35 Frank and Al (1983) Victorian erotica (545252)

EUROSPORT

- Via the Astra satellite
 6.00am International Motorsport (26560)
 8.00 Cycling (288360) 11.30 Mountain Bike '92 World Cup (40232) 12.00 Volleyball: Italy (57143) 2.00 Basketball (18134) 3.00 Cycling (31080) 4.00 Basketball (5588505)
 10.00 Volleyball: The World League (812476)
 1.00 Cycling (52352) 2.00 Football (60629)
 ● Via the Astra satellite
 6.00am Tennis Magazine (60118) 7.30 Paris-Moscow-Berlin Road (545872) 7.50 Brazilian Football (566746) 8.00 Tennis Magazine (60118) 8.30 Tennis Magazine (60118) 9.00 Tennis Magazine (60118) 9.30 Tennis Magazine (60118) 10.00 Tennis Magazine (60118) 10.30 Tennis Magazine (60118) 11.00 Tennis Magazine (60118) 11.30 Tennis Magazine (60118) 12.00 Tennis Magazine (60118) 12.30 Tennis Magazine (60118) 1.00 Tennis Magazine (60118) 1.30 Tennis Magazine (60118) 2.00 Tennis Magazine (60118) 2.30 Tennis Magazine (60118) 3.00 Tennis Magazine (60118) 3.30 Tennis Magazine (60118) 4.00 Tennis Magazine (60118) 4.30 Tennis Magazine (60118) 5.00 Tennis Magazine (60118) 5.30 Tennis Magazine (60118) 6.00 Tennis Magazine (60118) 6.30 Tennis Magazine (60118) 7.00 Tennis Magazine (60118) 7.30 Tennis Magazine (60118) 8.00 Tennis Magazine (60118) 8.30 Tennis Magazine (60118) 9.00 Tennis Magazine (60118) 9.30 Tennis Magazine (60118) 10.00 Tennis Magazine (60118) 10.30 Tennis Magazine (60118) 11.00 Tennis 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